

BLAME!

TOKYOPOP®



3

Tsutomu Nihei

BLAME!

Volume Three
by Tsutomu Nihei



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

BLAME! Vol. 3
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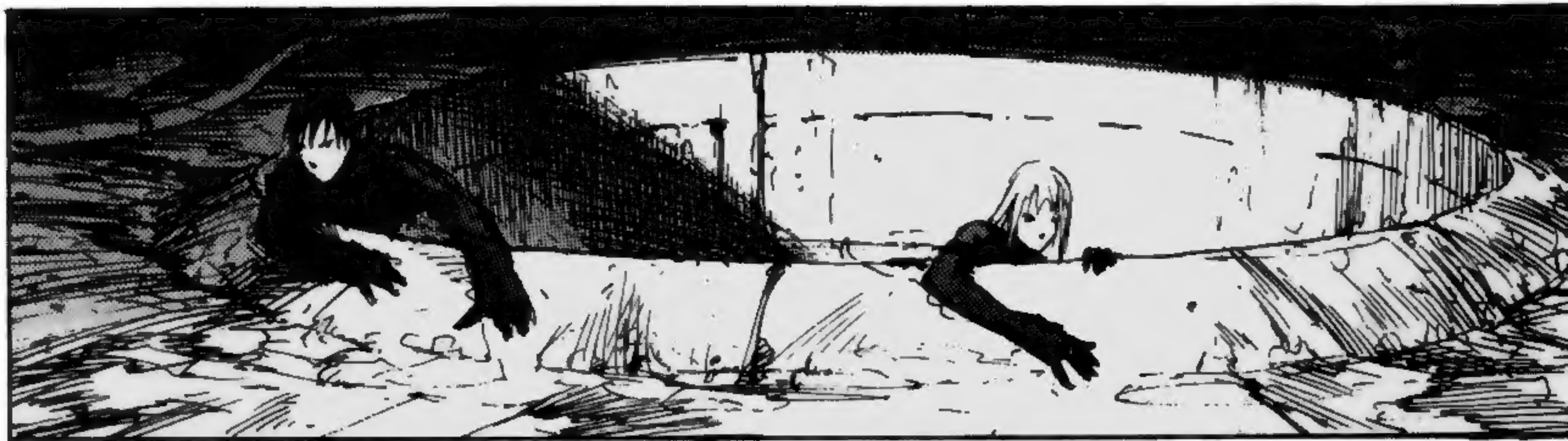
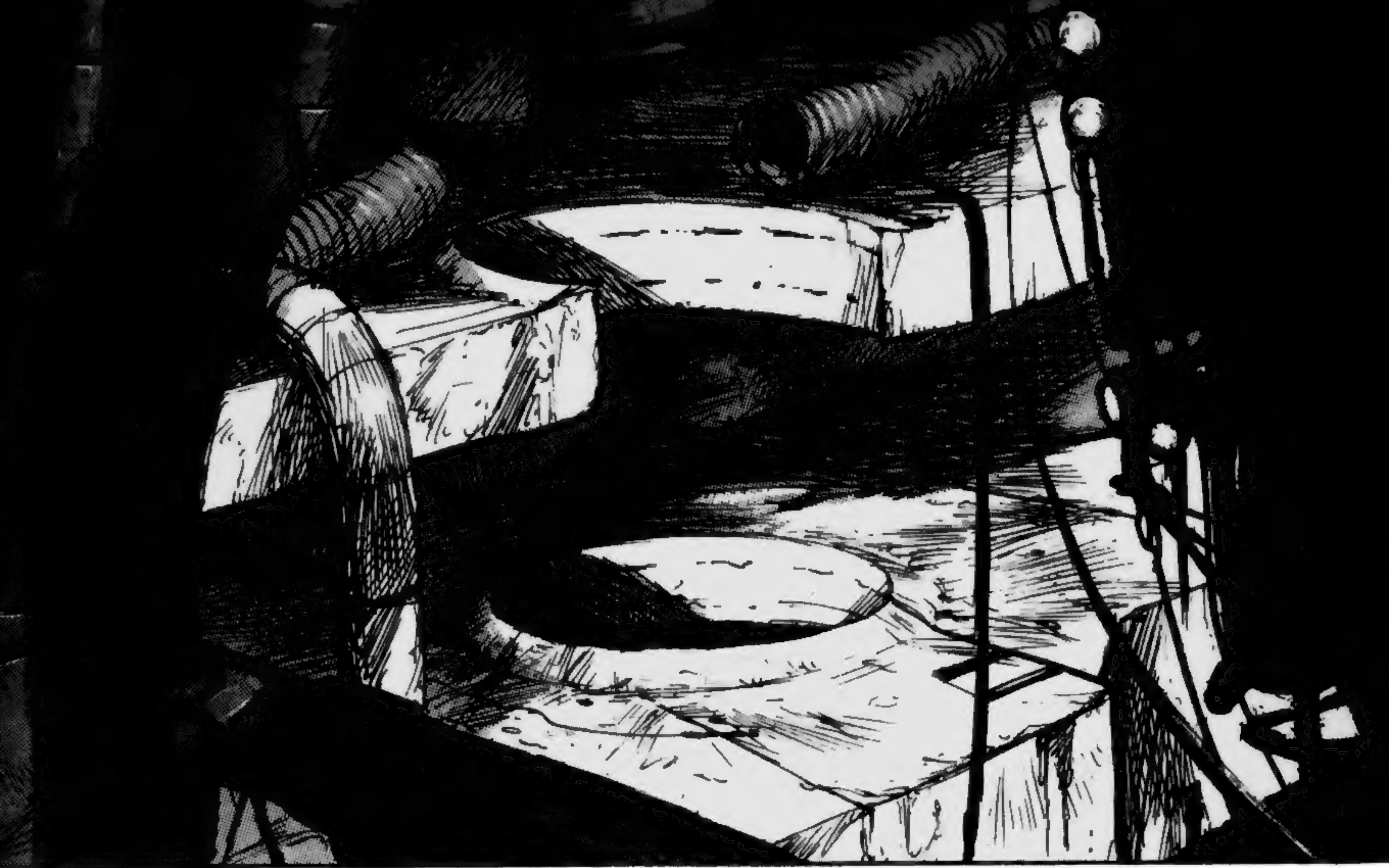
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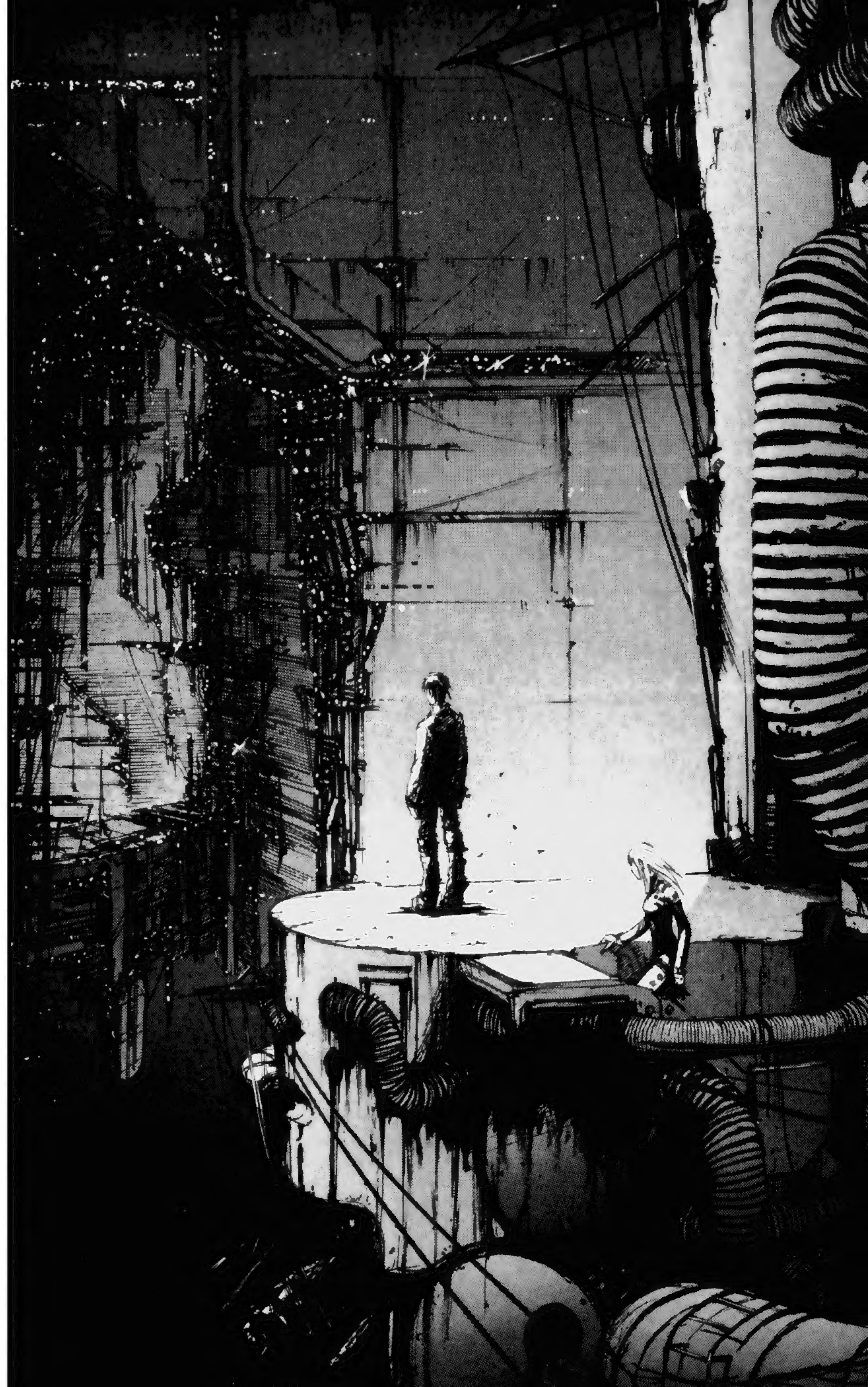
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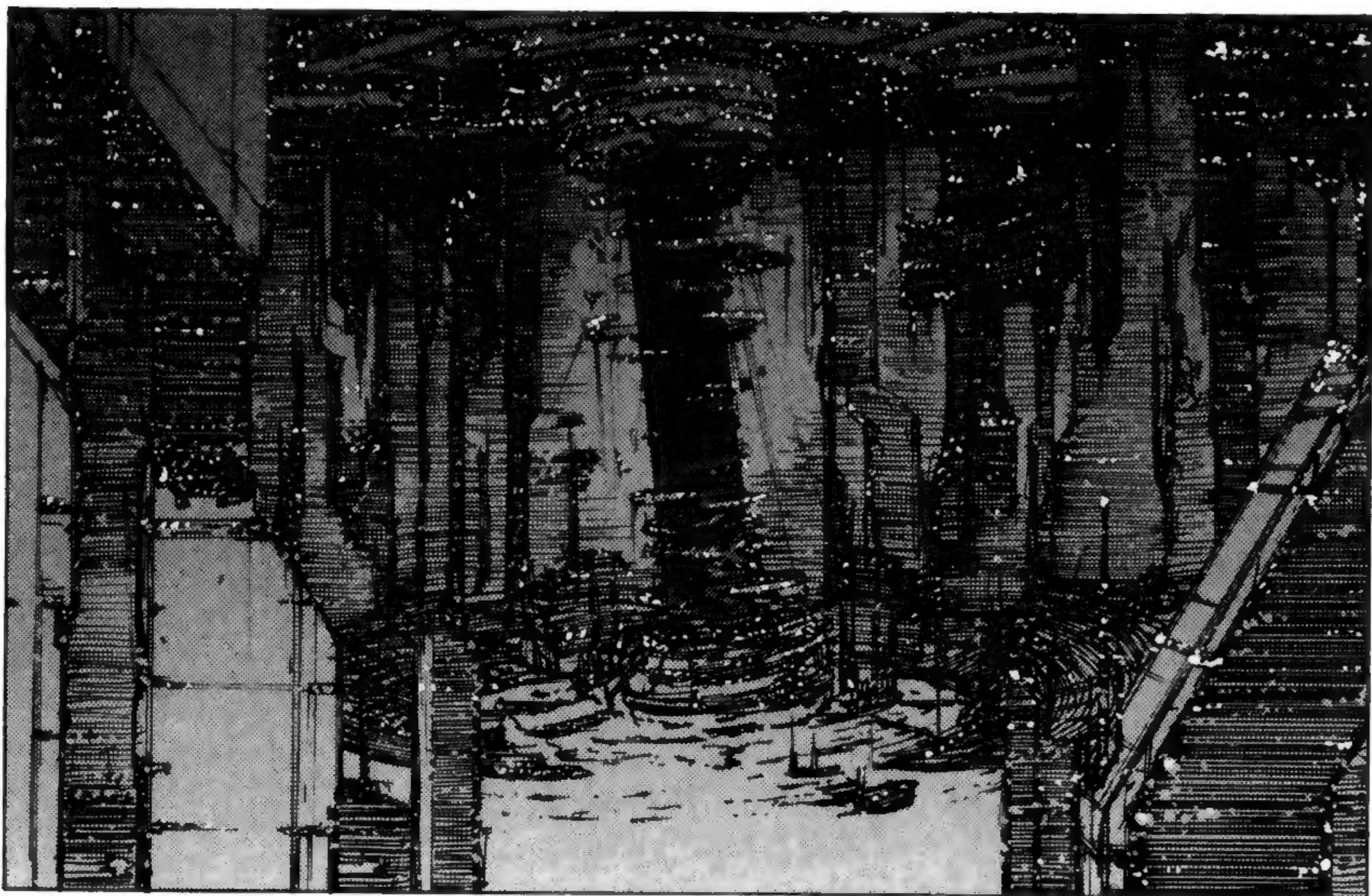
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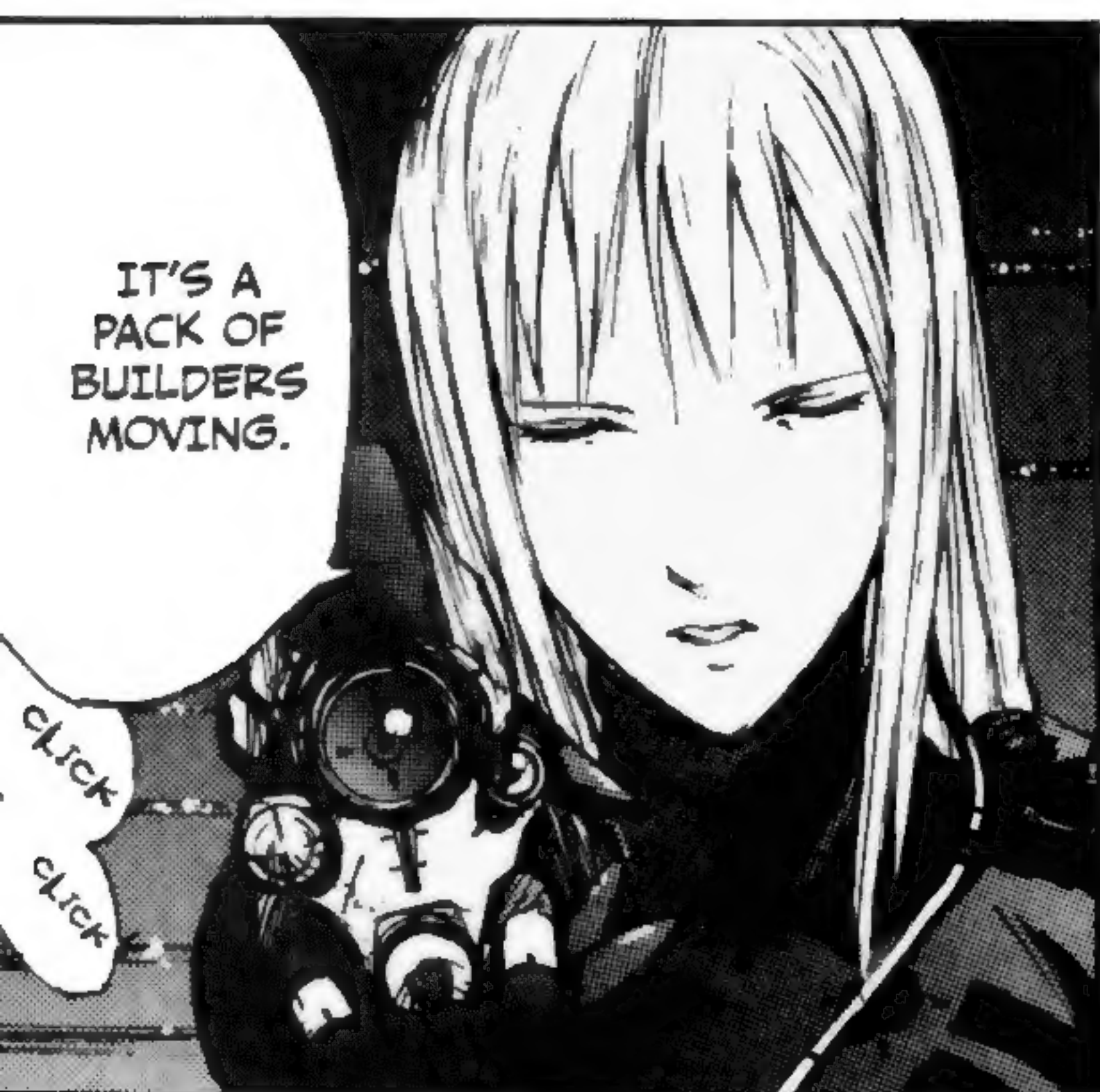
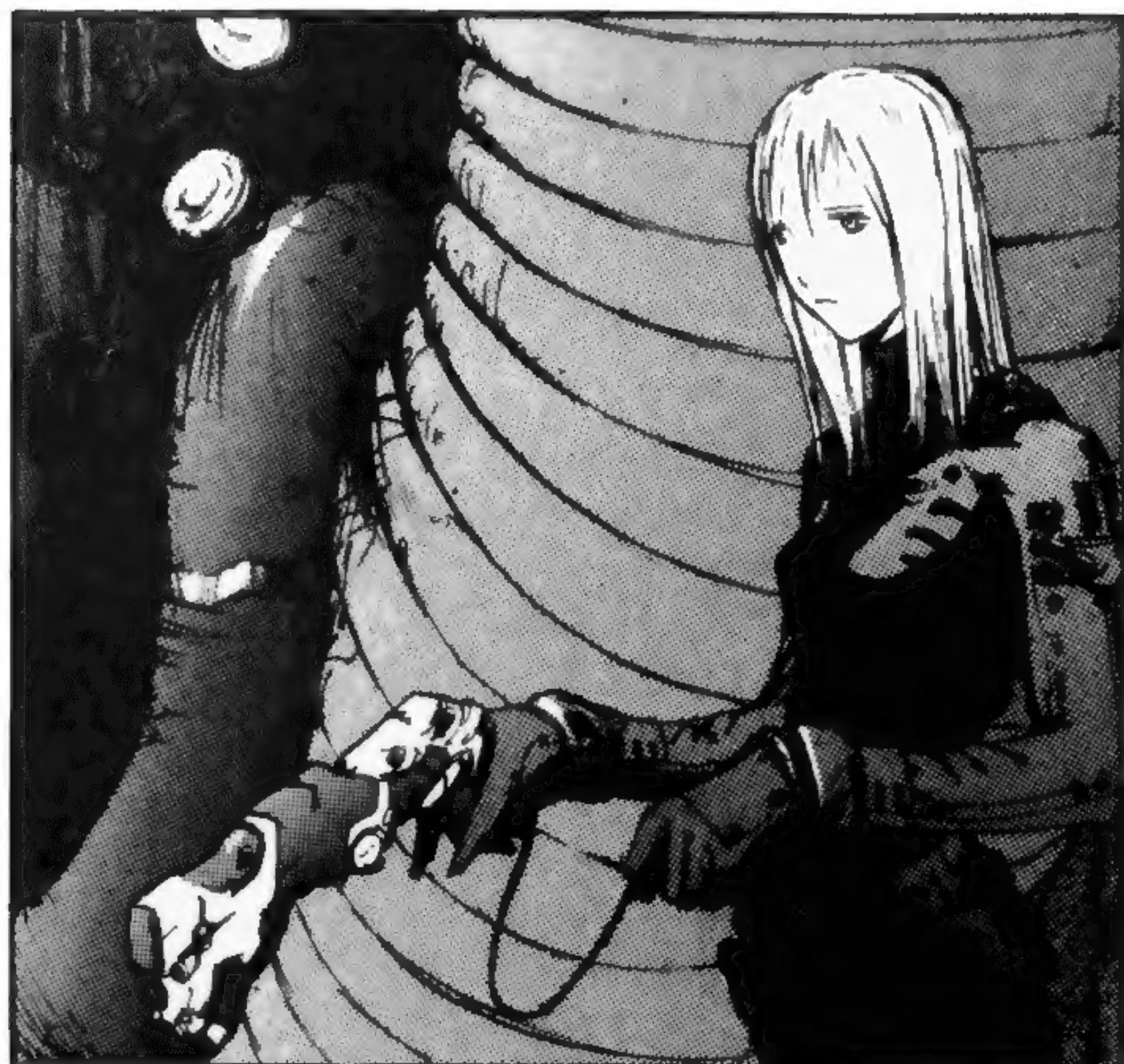


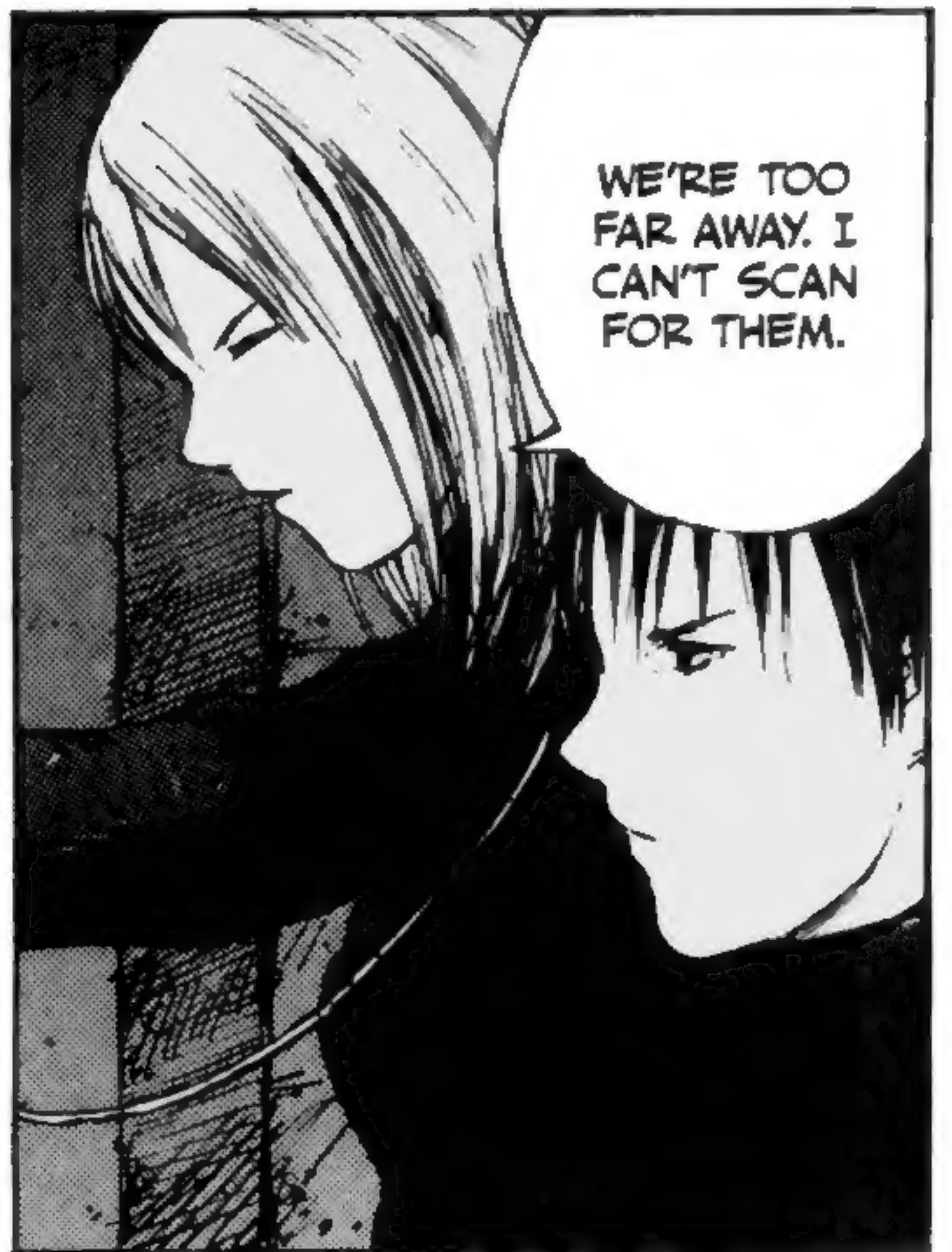
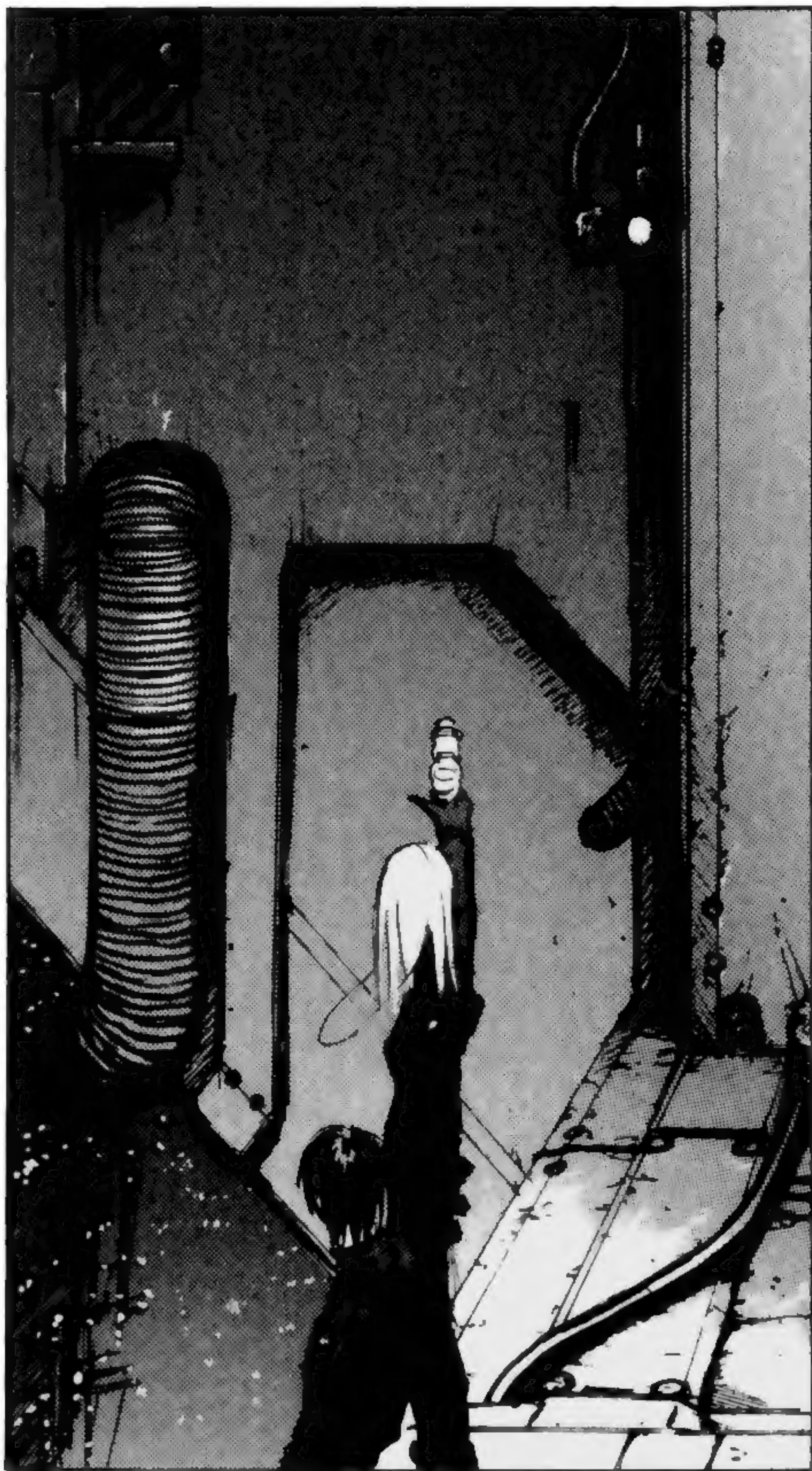


LOG.12 — The Great Cyst









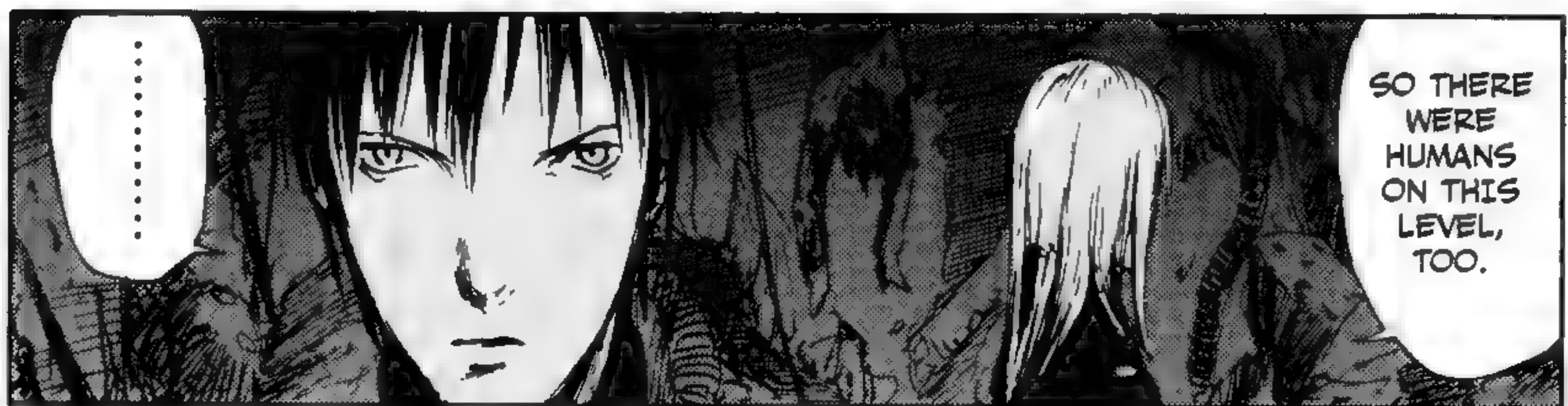


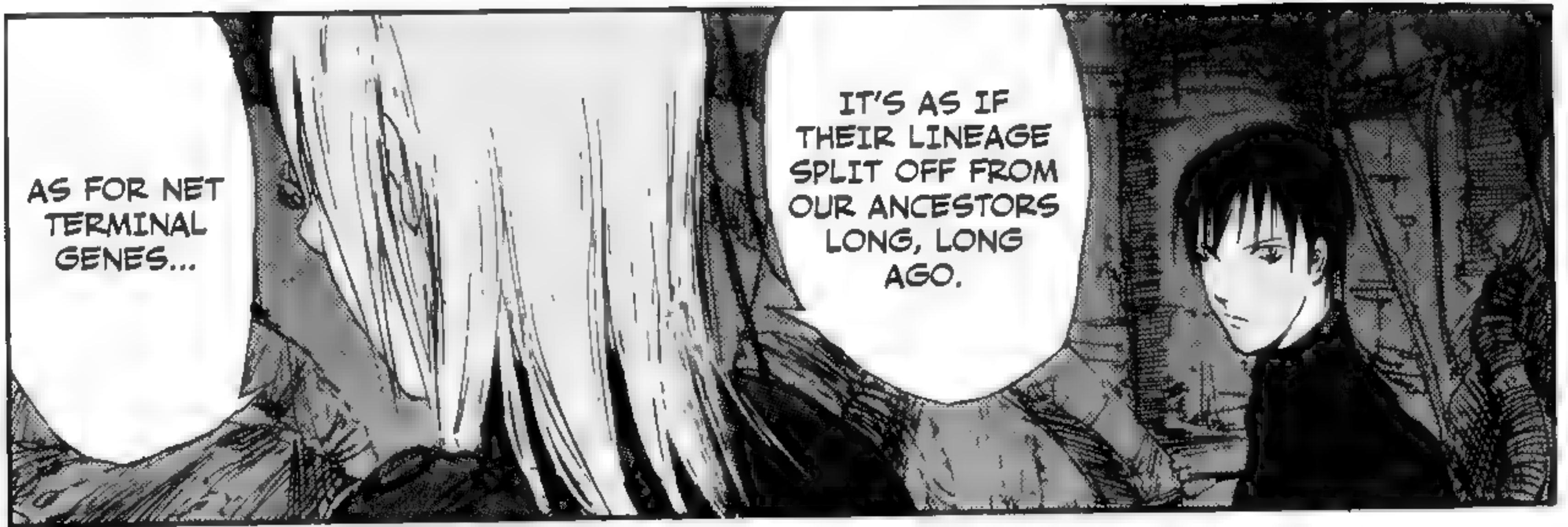
THEY LOOK
HUMAN, BUT
THEY'RE NOT
MOVING.
AND I CAN'T
SENSE ANY
COGNITION.

I CAN SEE
ORGANISMS
NEARBY,
IN THIS
DIRECTION.
TOO MANY
TO COUNT.



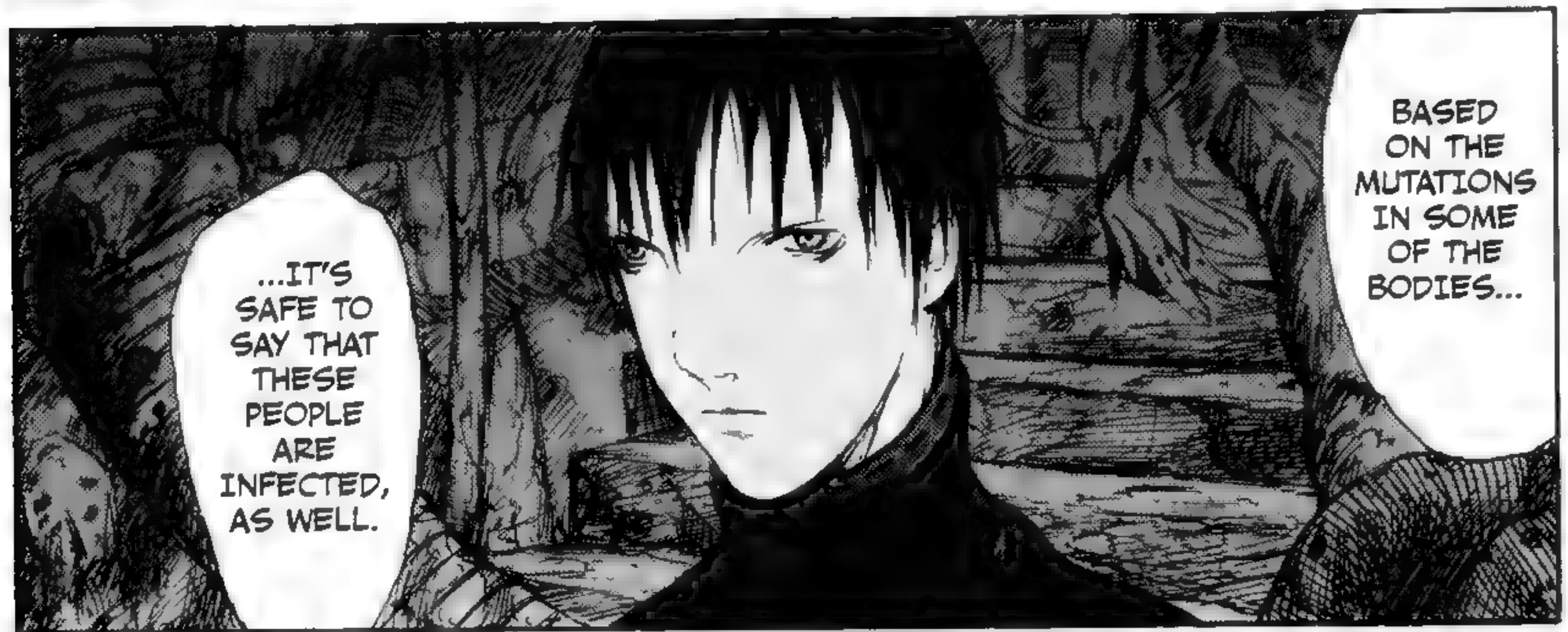






AS FOR NET
TERMINAL
GENES...

IT'S AS IF
THEIR LINEAGE
SPLIT OFF FROM
OUR ANCESTORS
LONG, LONG
AGO.



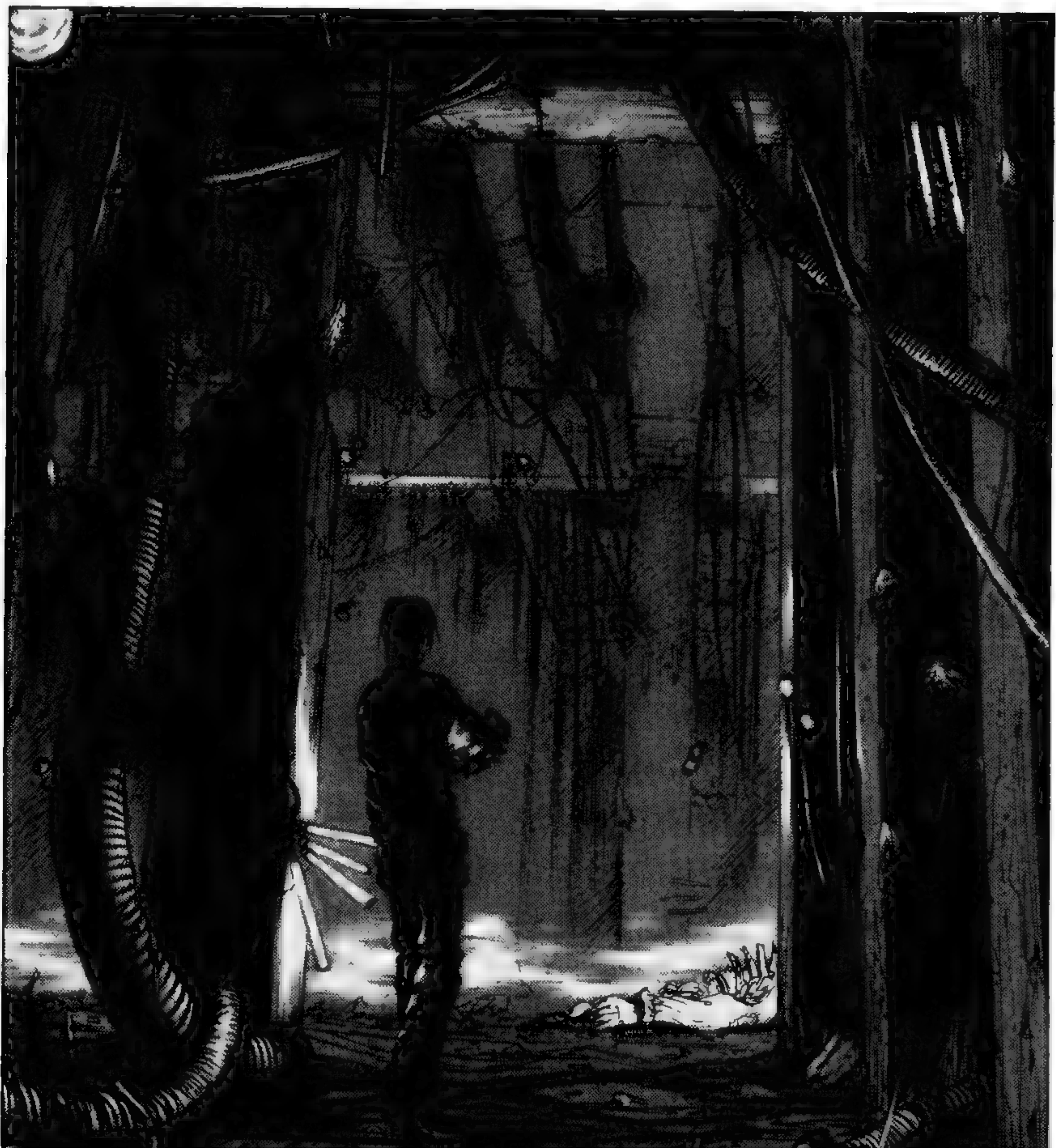
...IT'S
SAFE TO
SAY THAT
THESE
PEOPLE
ARE
INFECTED,
AS WELL.

BASED
ON THE
MUTATIONS
IN SOME
OF THE
BODIES...



WE'D
PROBABLY
BE ABLE TO
CONVERSE
WITH
THEM.

THEIR
LANGUAGE
BASE IS
SIMILAR TO
OURS.







FLICK



IS IT
ALIVE?

THAT'S
WEIRD.

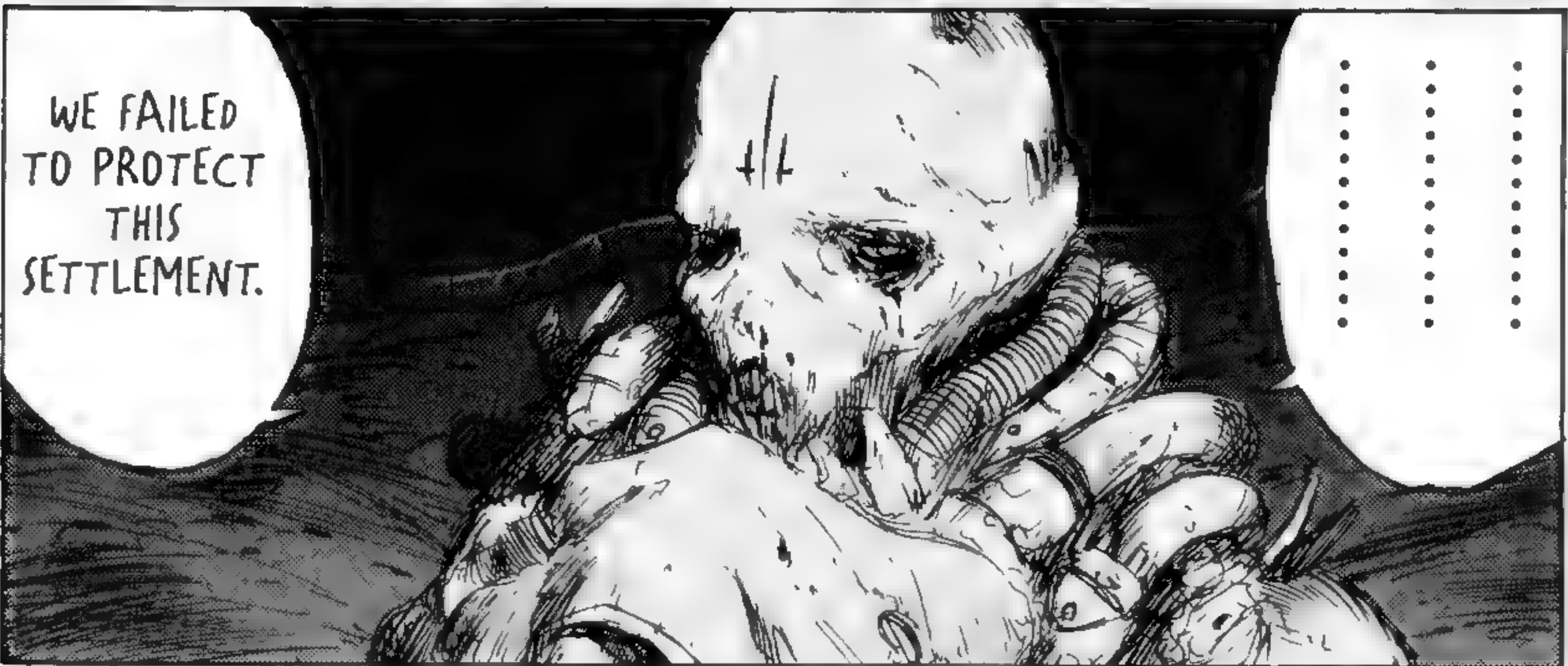
KON

KON



WHAT
HAPPENED
HERE?

THE
AUTHORITY,
RIGHT?



WE FAILED
TO PROTECT
THIS
SETTLEMENT.

.....



GLORGE



THEY'RE
STILL
CLOSE
BY...

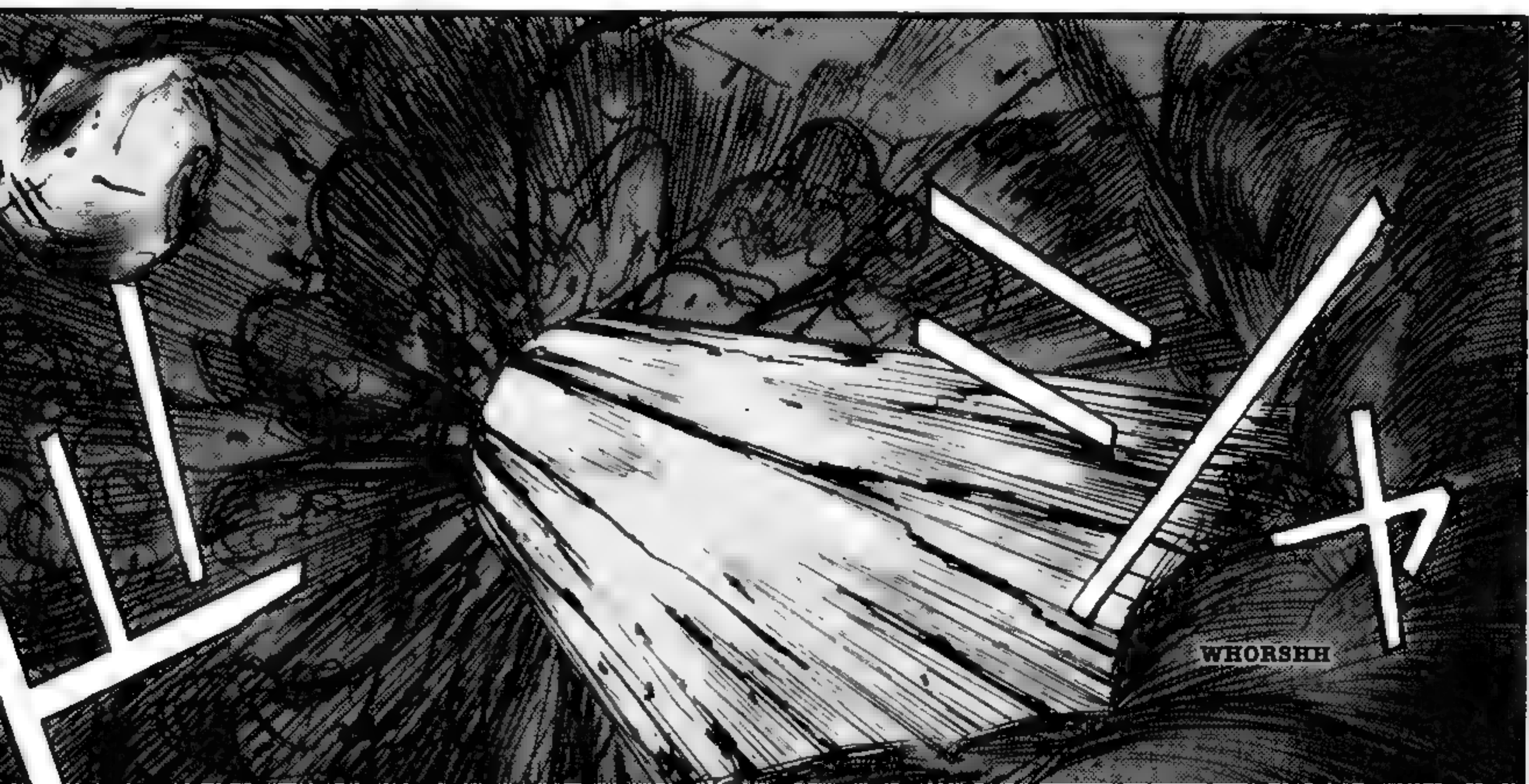
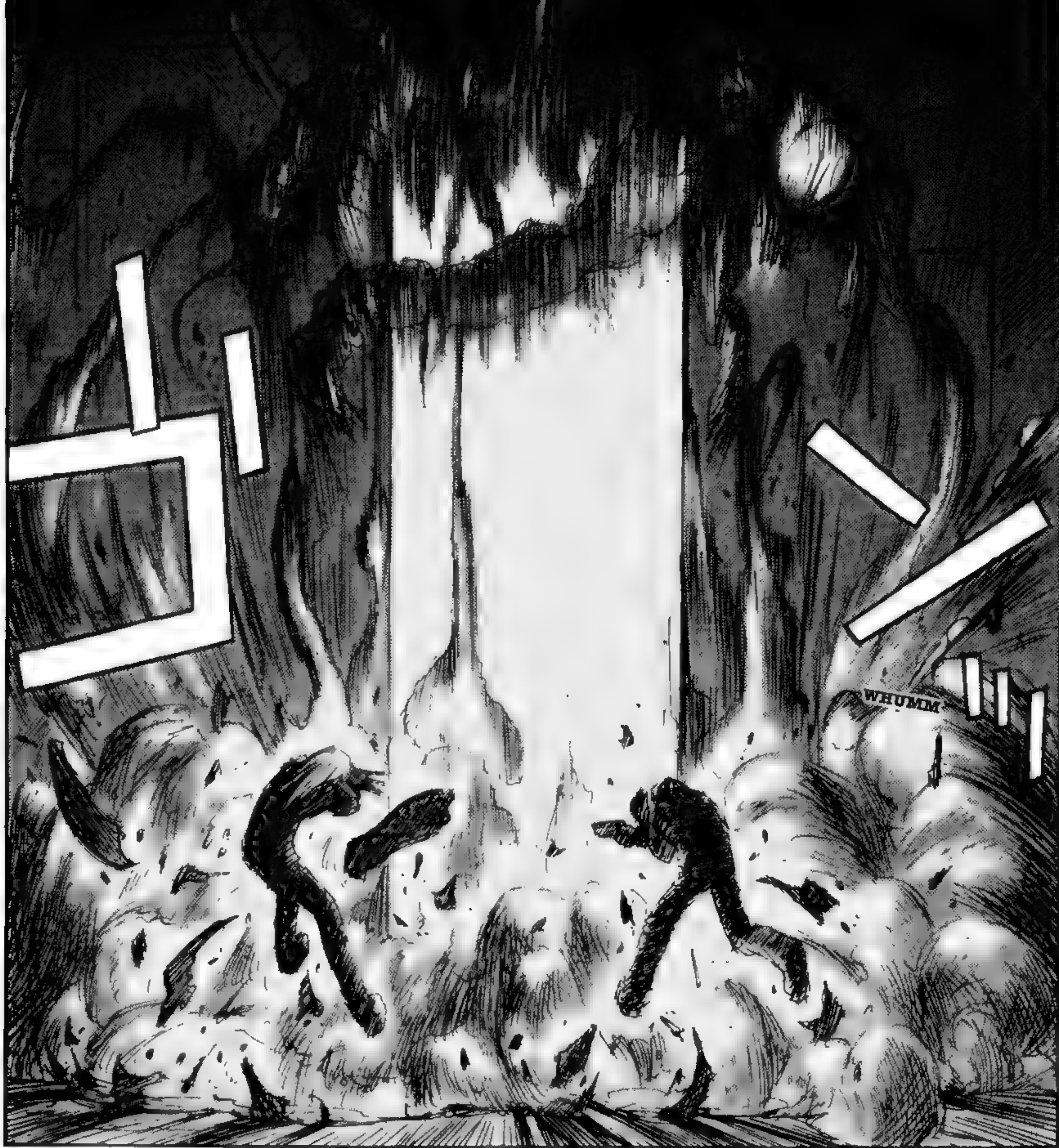
YOU
MUST
FLEE...

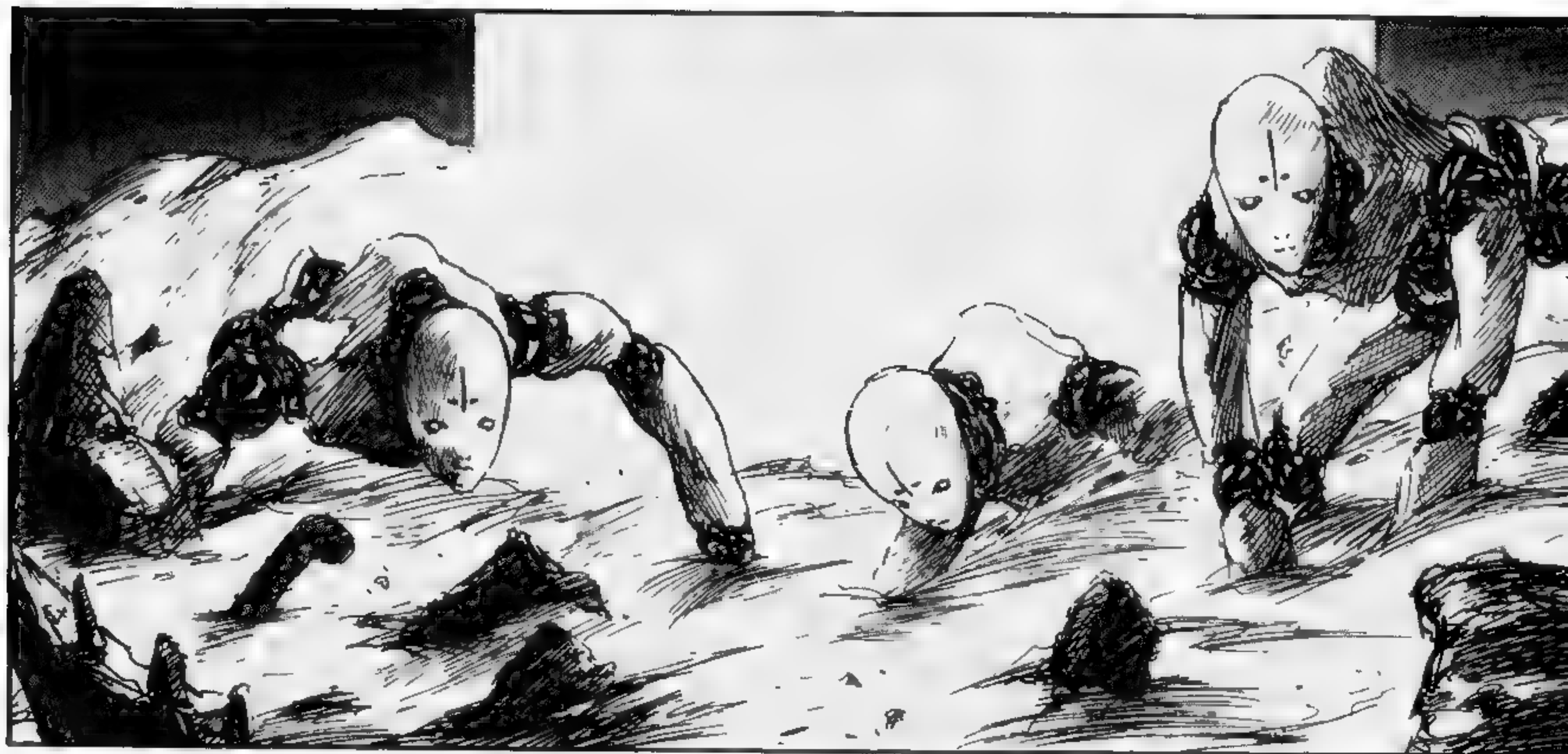
WAS
THERE A
SAFEGUARD
ATTACK?



RUMBLE









WHISKY

VWUMM



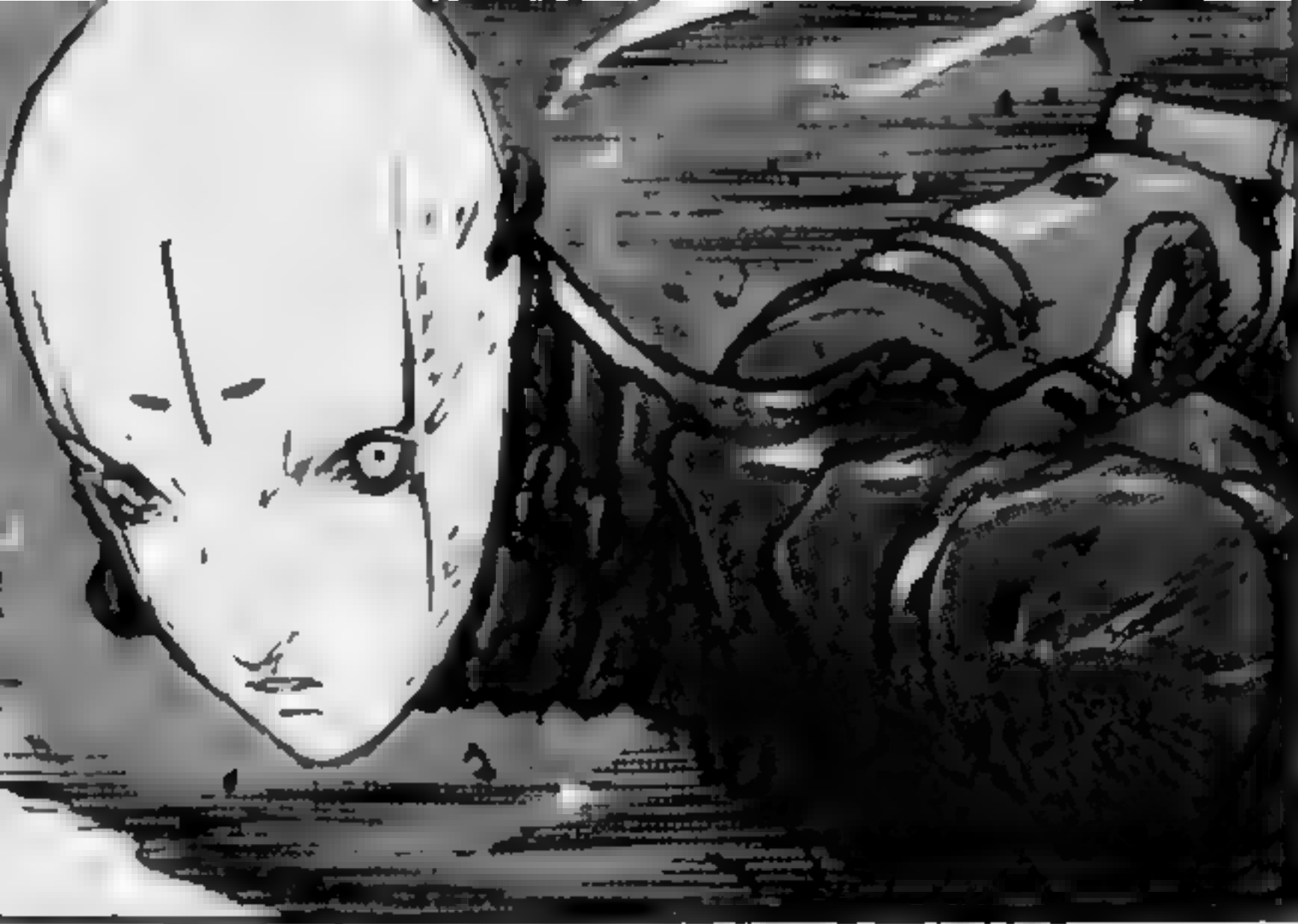
WHISKY



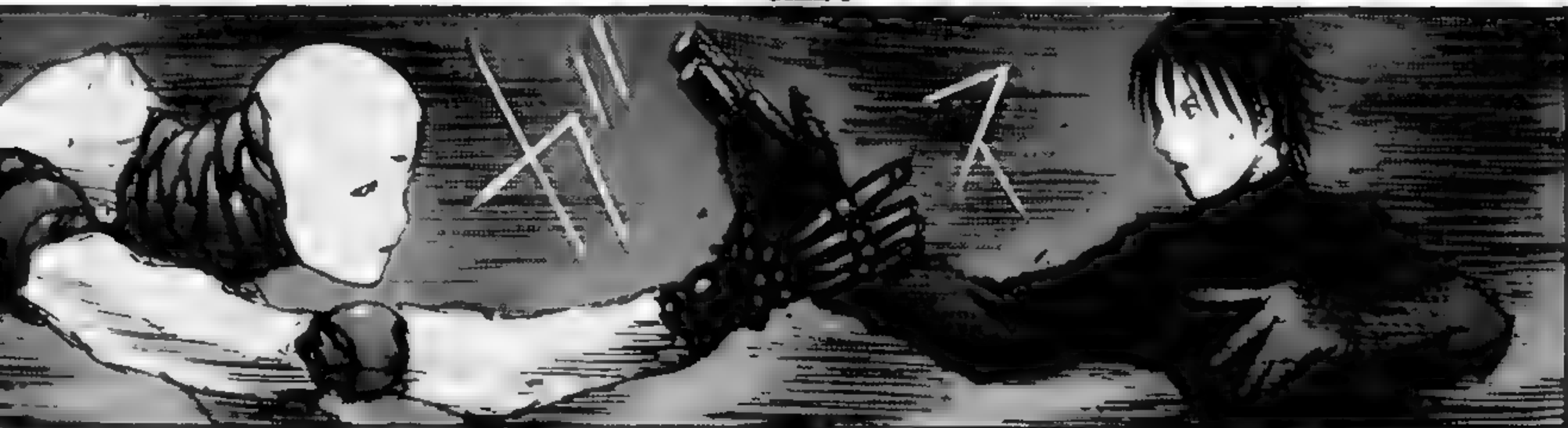


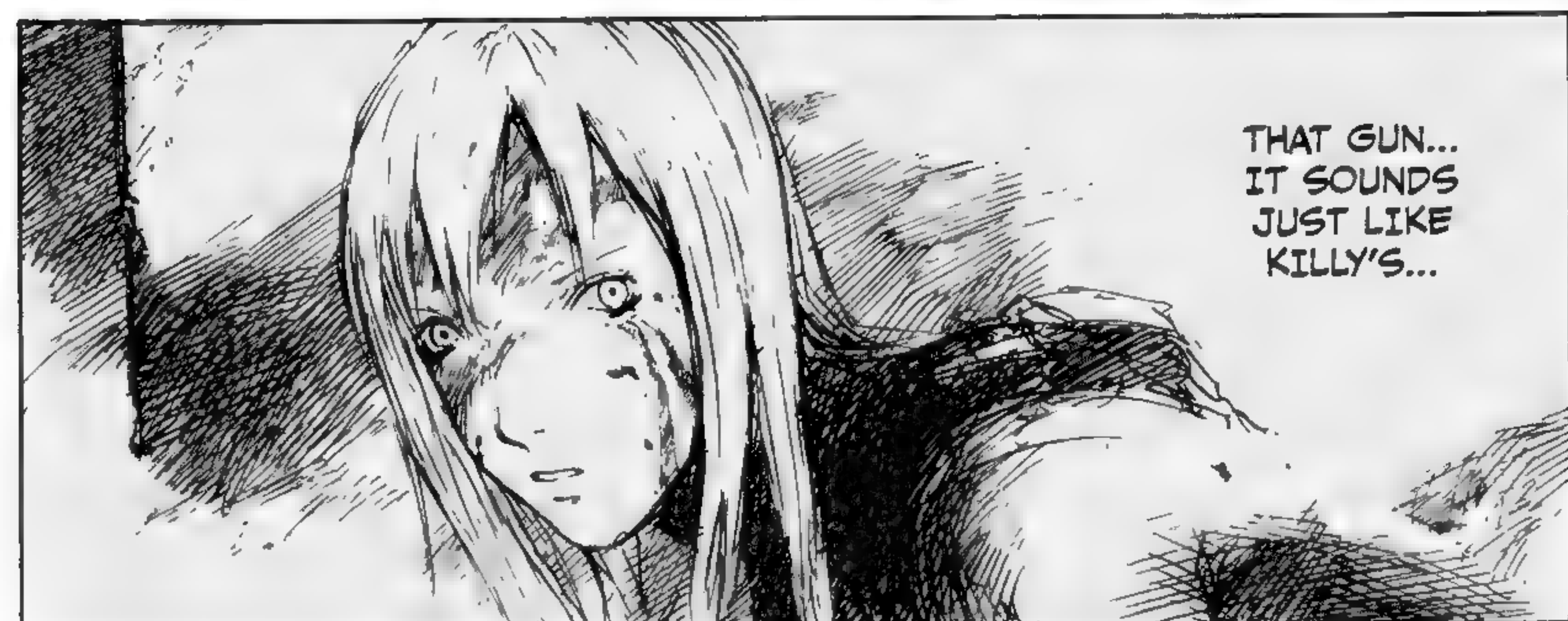
WHOOSH





GRFT



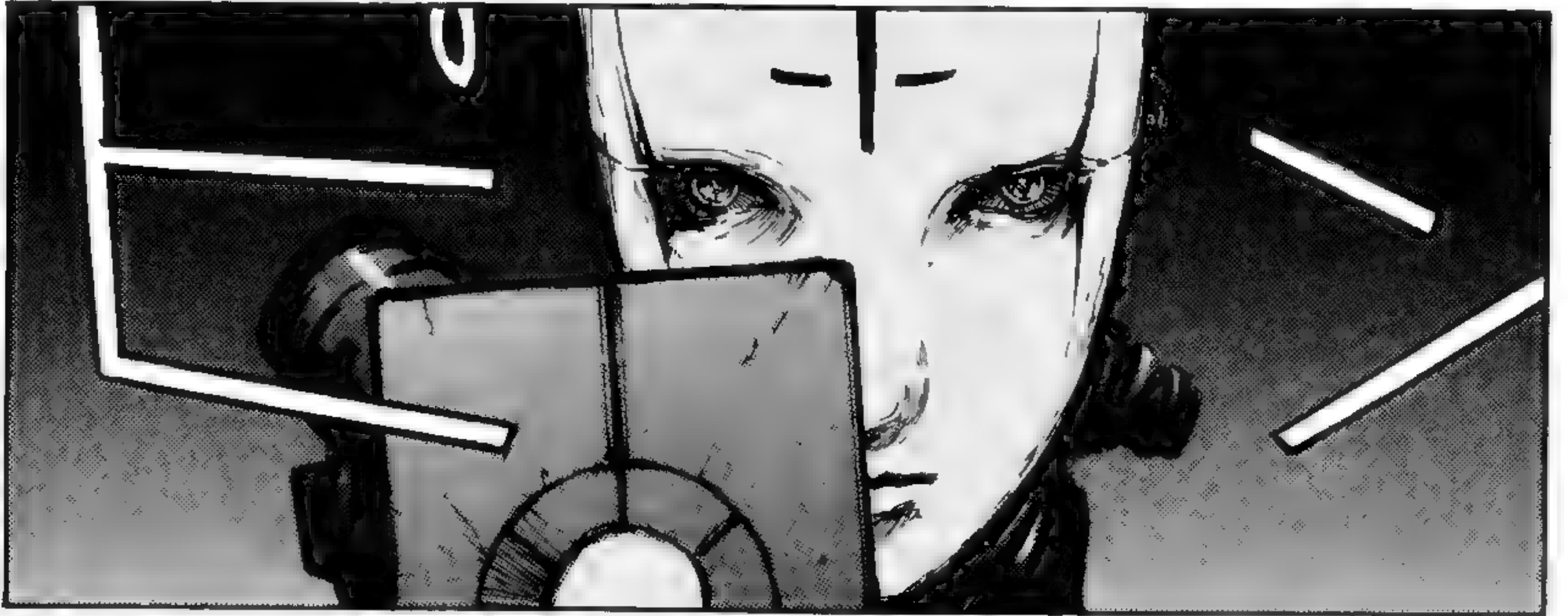


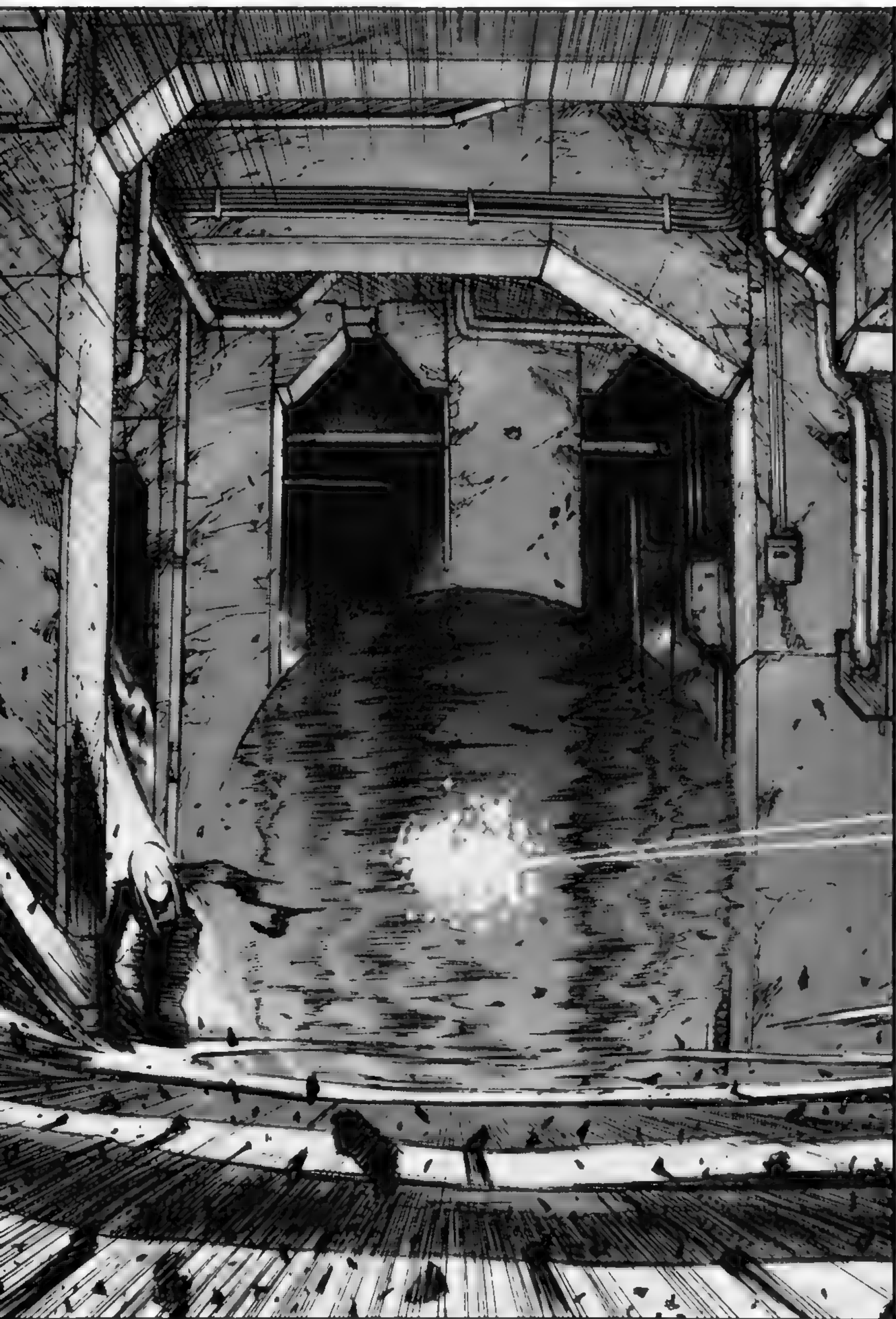
THAT GUN...
IT SOUNDS
JUST LIKE
KILLY'S...

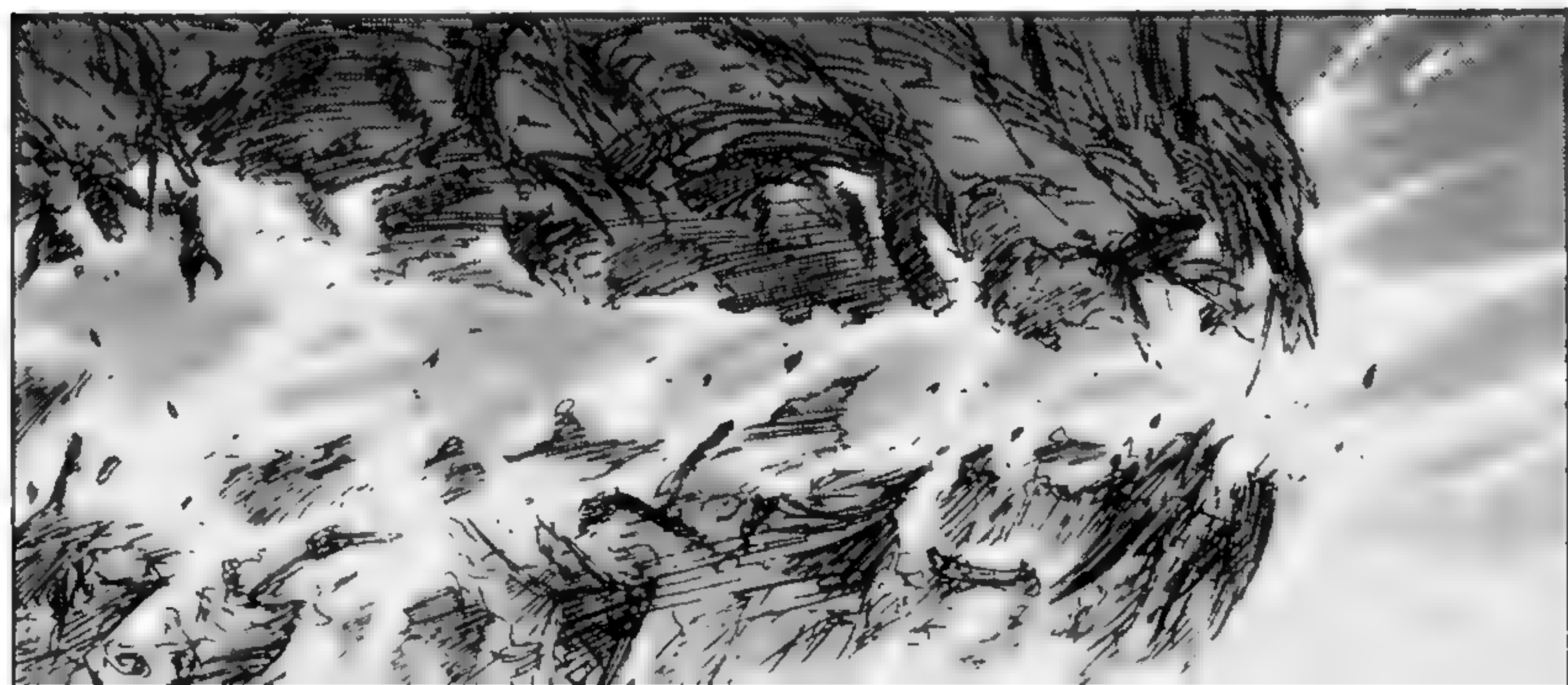
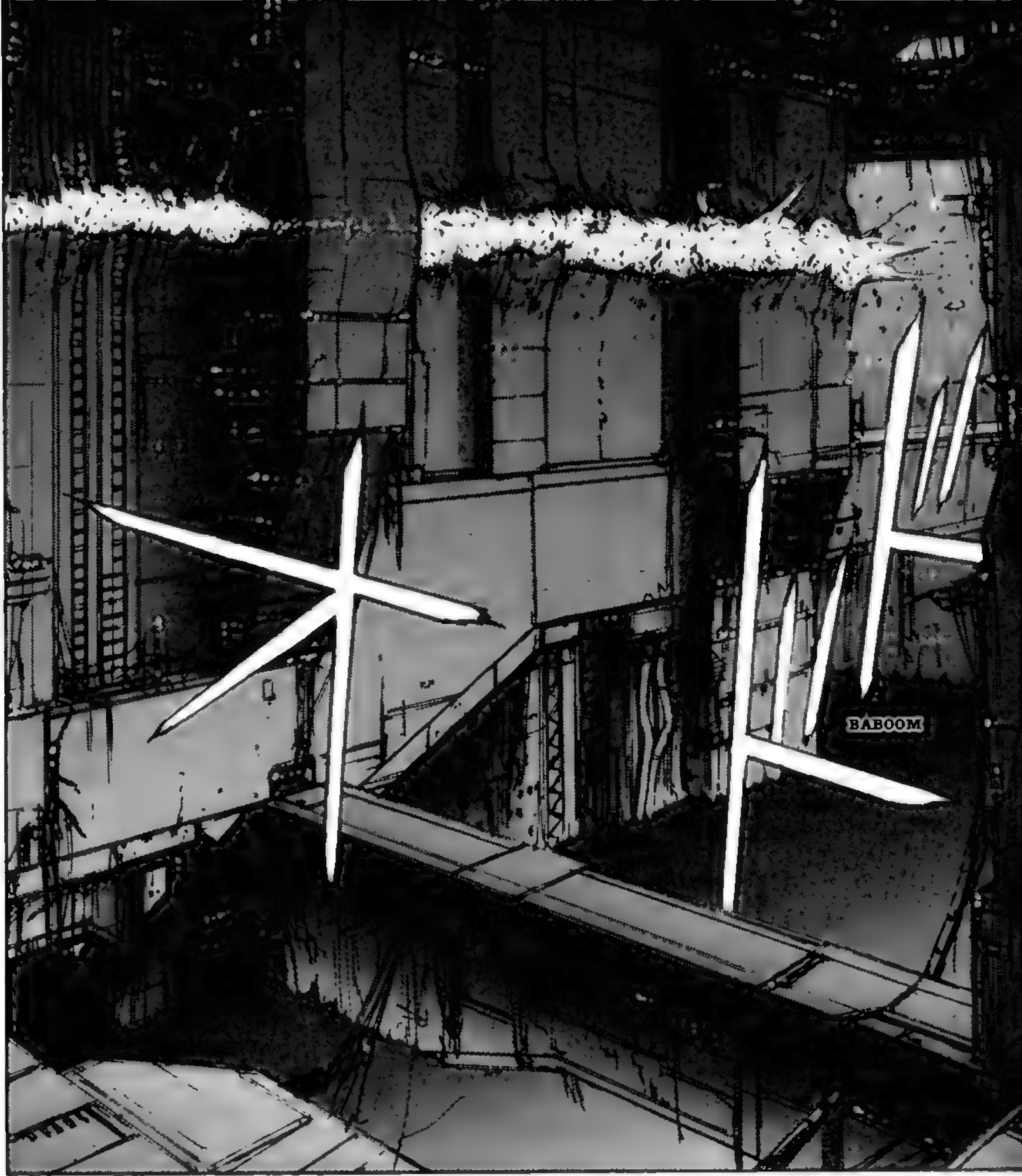


SCRRRAPE

ZZAP









GLUNK



SLIDE

CRUNCH







CRUNCH



SHUUUBA



OOF!



THUNK





FWIP





0101010101

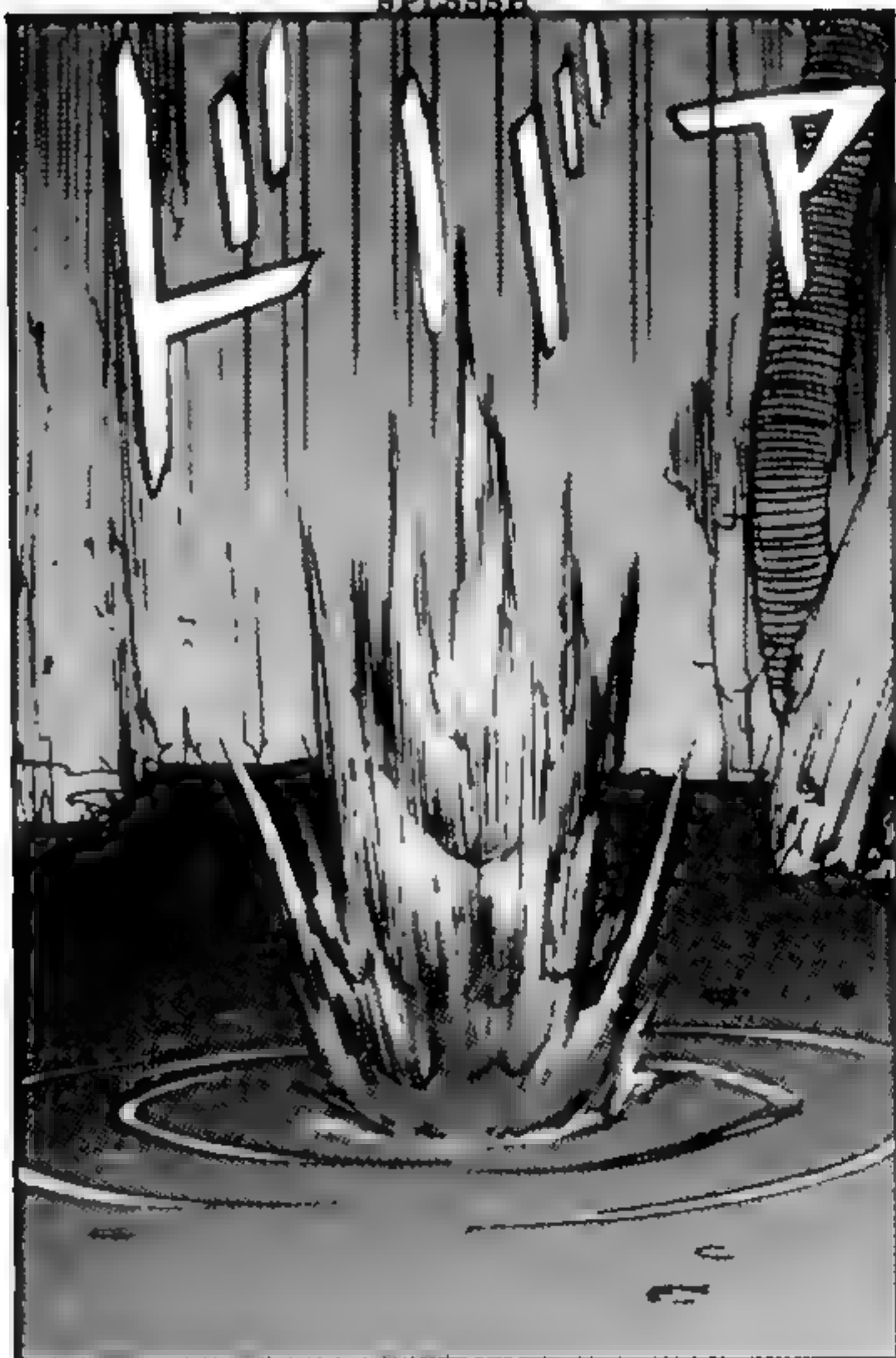


WHUM

SHI PA PA PA PA

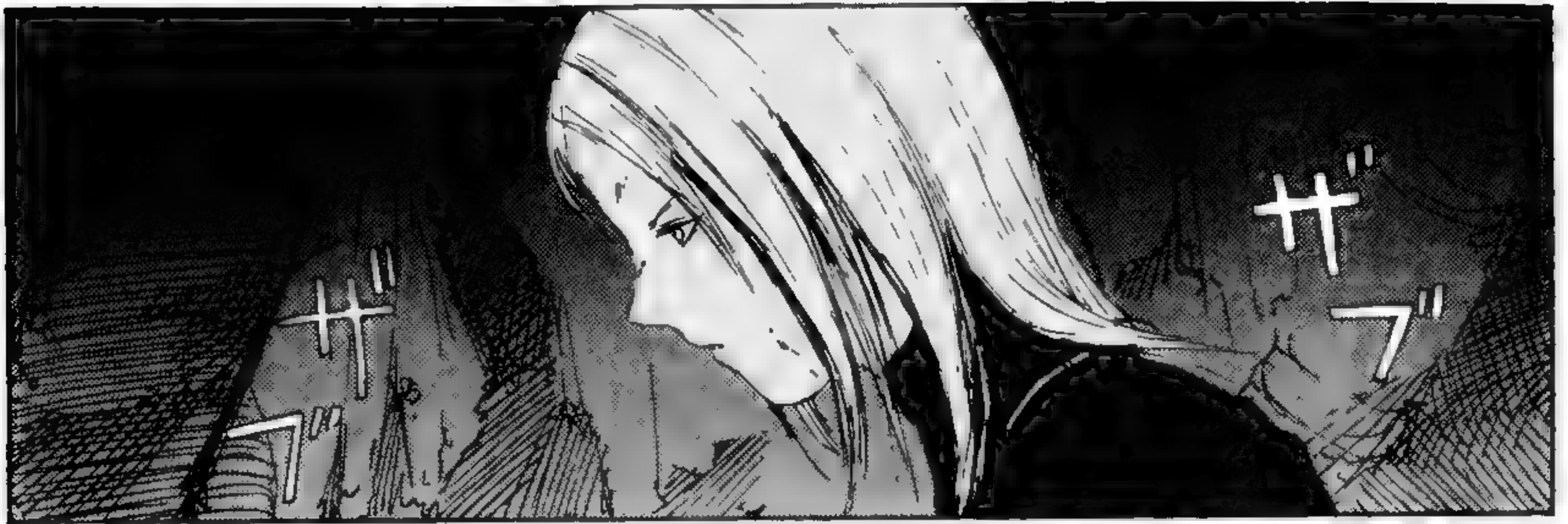










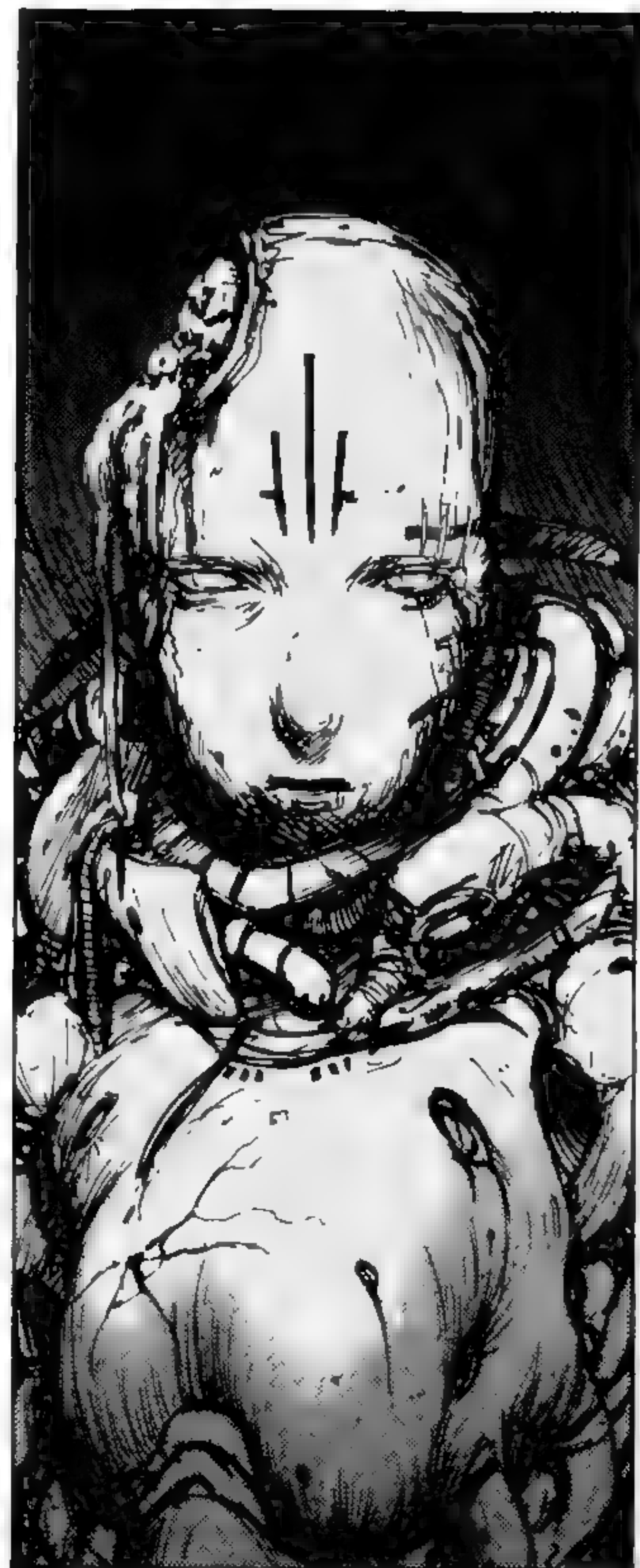


SLOSH

SLOSH



HE'S
ALIVE.





WHAT'S
CAUSING
THAT?



NORMALLY
THIS WOULD
CAUSE
INSTANT
DEATH.

THE
SAFEGUARD
PROBABLY
LOADED HIM
WITH NANO-
MACHINES.



SO YOU
CAN'T MOVE
YOUR RIGHT
ARM?

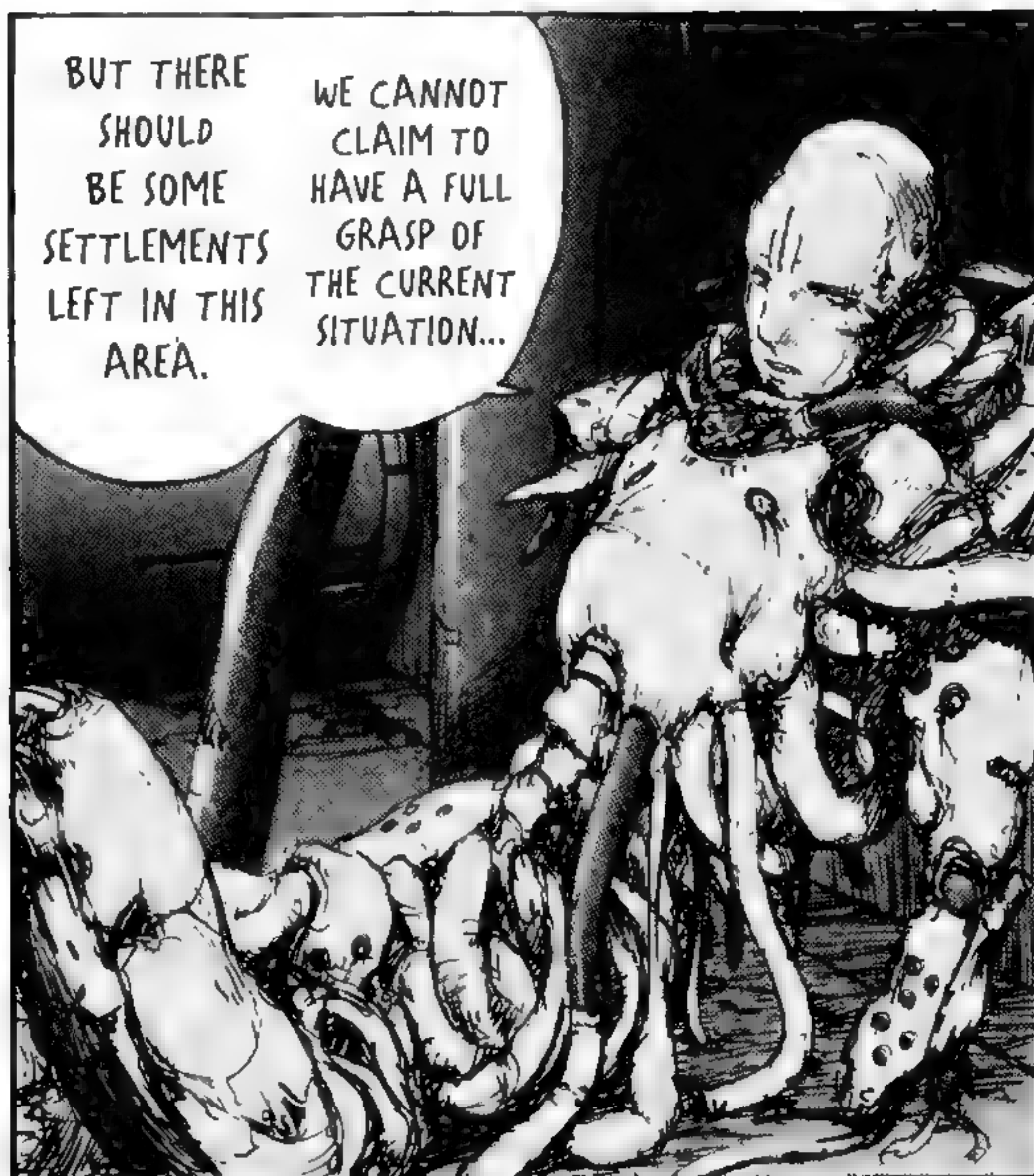


WHEEZE

WHEEZE



THE
SAFEGUARD
HAD A
GRAVITON
BEAM
EMITTER,
DIDN'T
THEY?



BUT THERE
SHOULD
BE SOME
SETTLEMENTS
LEFT IN THIS
AREA.

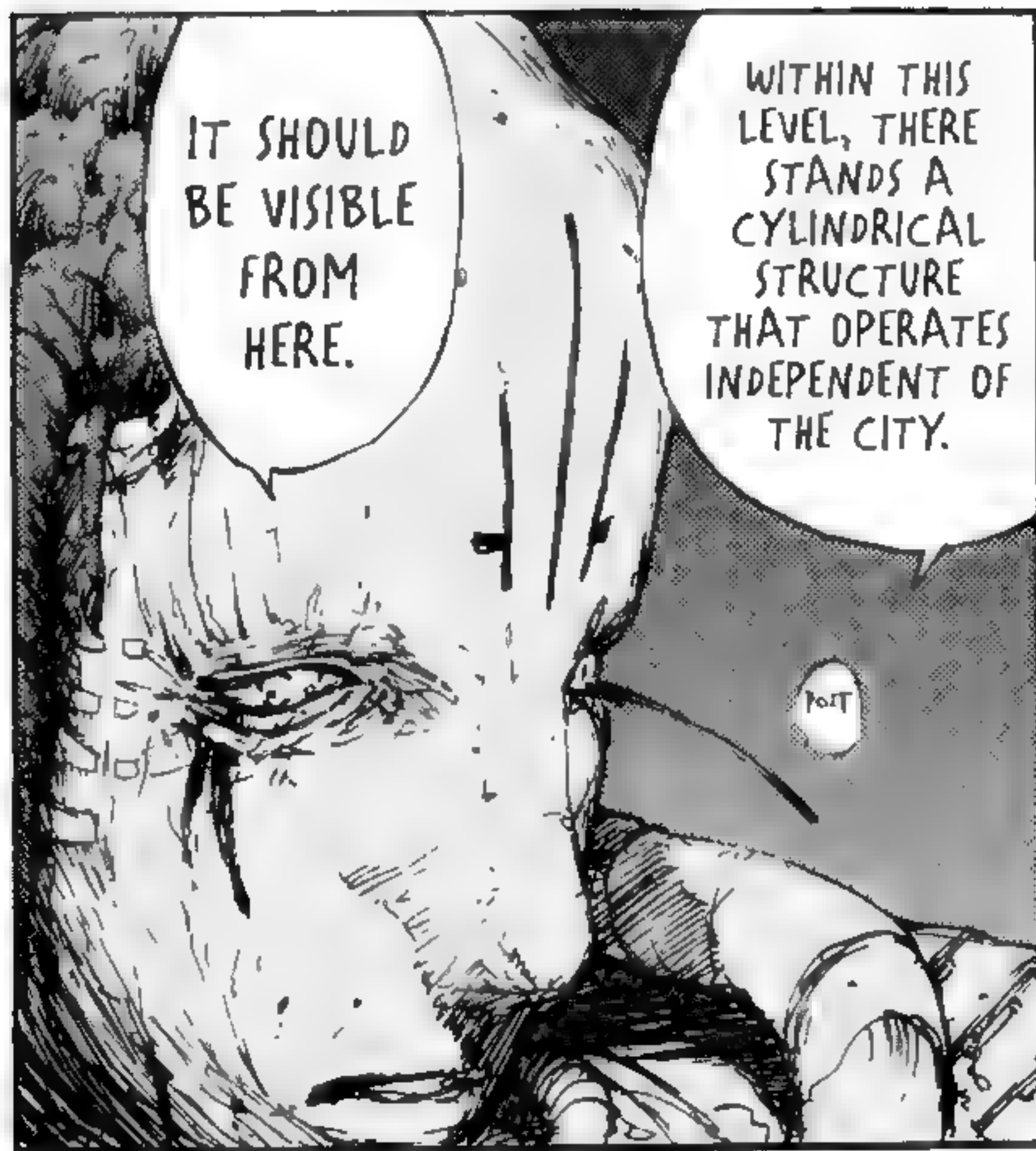
WE CANNOT
CLAIM TO
HAVE A FULL
GRASP OF
THE CURRENT
SITUATION...



ARE THERE
ANY MORE
PEOPLE
ON THIS
LEVEL?

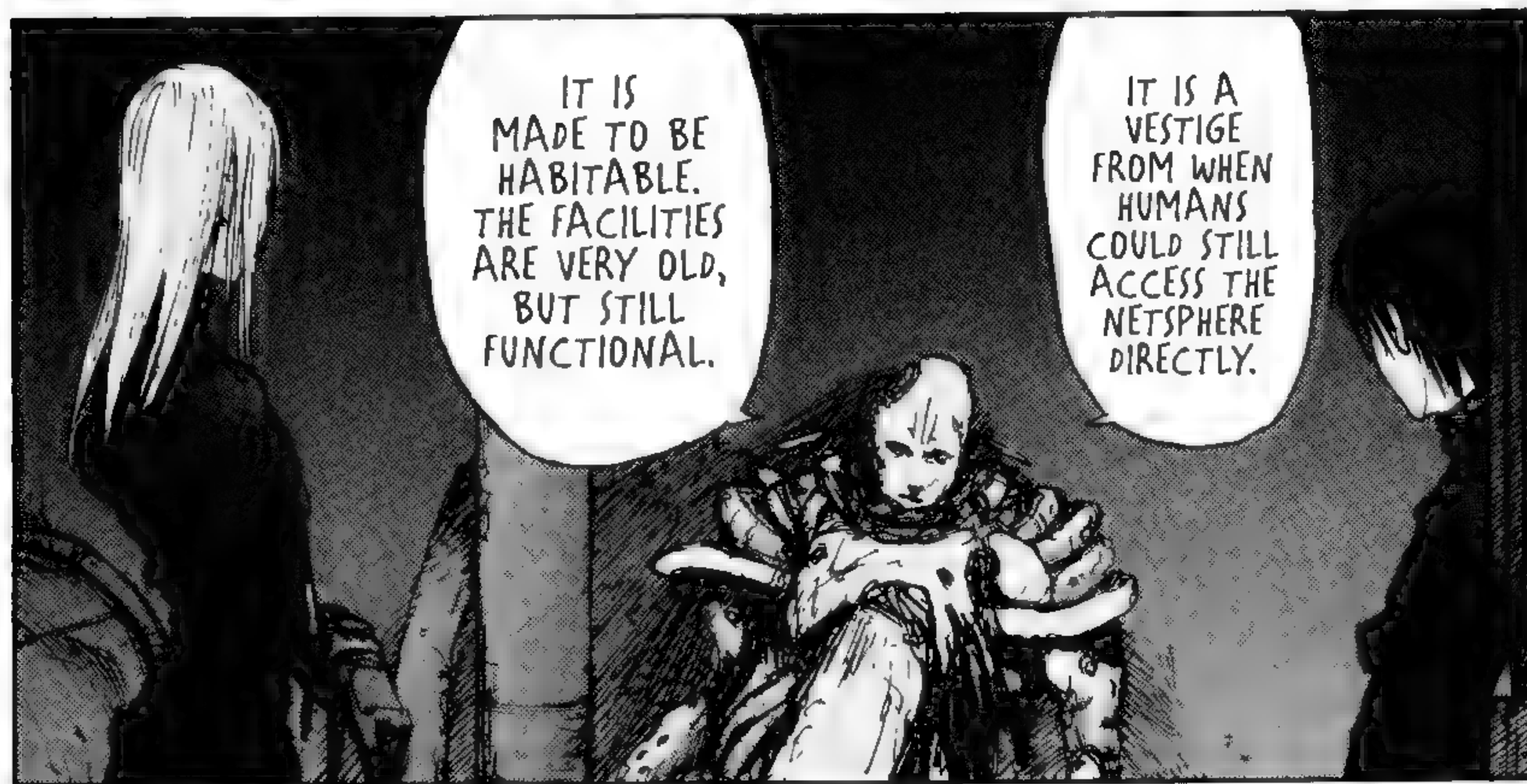


YES,
WE SAW
IT ON
THE WAY
IN.



IT SHOULD
BE VISIBLE
FROM
HERE.

WITHIN THIS
LEVEL, THERE
STANDS A
CYLINDRICAL
STRUCTURE
THAT OPERATES
INDEPENDENT OF
THE CITY.



IT IS
MADE TO BE
HABITABLE.
THE FACILITIES
ARE VERY OLD,
BUT STILL
FUNCTIONAL.

IT IS A
VESTIGE
FROM WHEN
HUMANS
COULD STILL
ACCESS THE
NETSPHERE
DIRECTLY.



...PEOPLE
INSIDE?

THERE
ARE...



AND IF THE
NET TERMINAL
GENES THEY
HAVE AT LEAST
WORK, THEY
SHOULD BE
CONNECTED TO
THE NETSPHERE
ALREADY.

IS THERE...
WELL, IS
THERE ANY
WAY TO
DETERMINE
THAT?



YES.

BUT IT IS
UNKNOWN
WHETHER OR
NOT THE NET
TERMINAL
GENES THEY
POSSESS ARE
GENUINE.



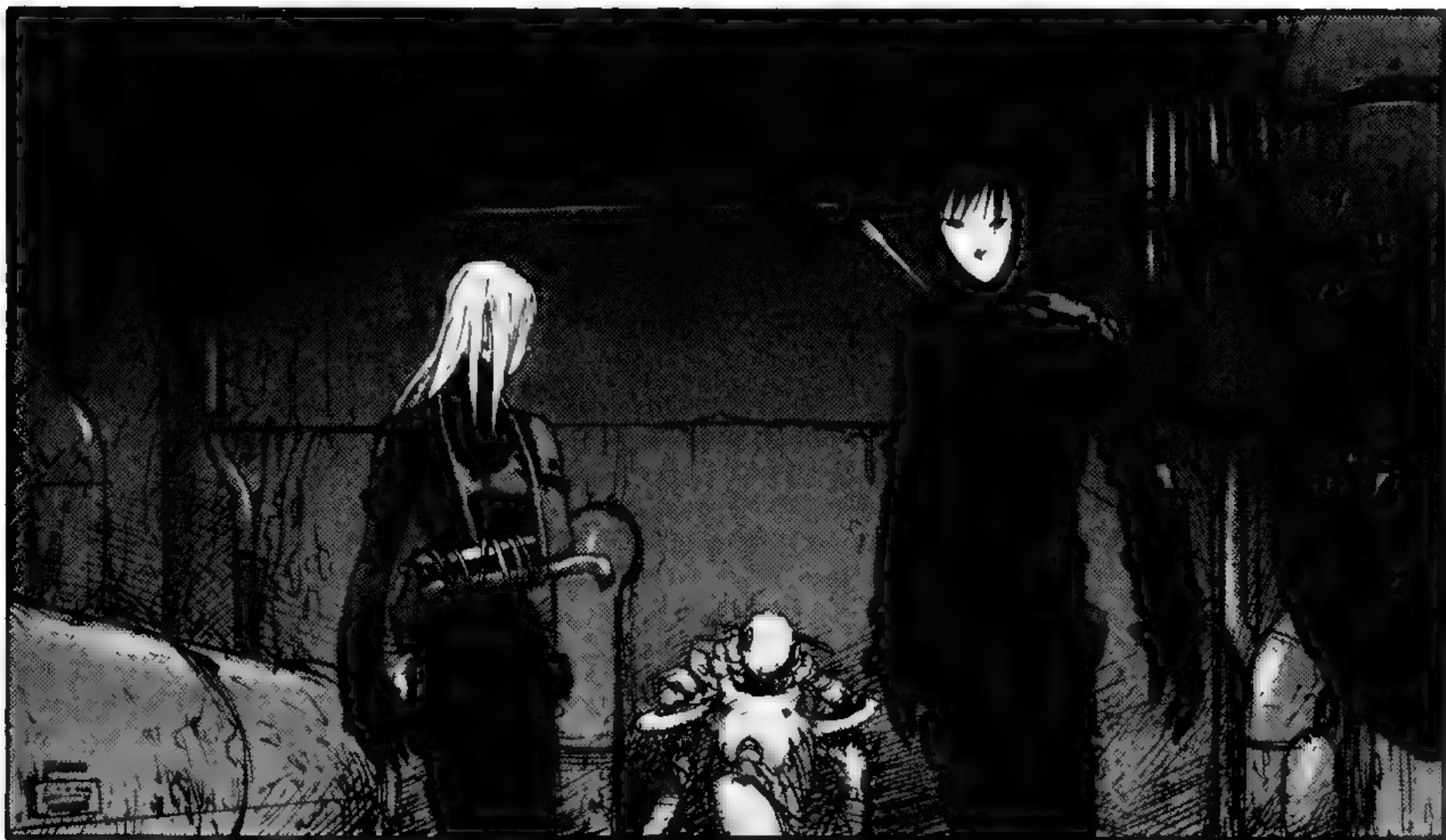
YOU'VE
NEVER BEEN
INSIDE THE
STRUCTURE?



A
PARA-
DOX.

...WE, THE
AUTHORITY,
MAY NOT
TAKE SUCH
ACTIONS.

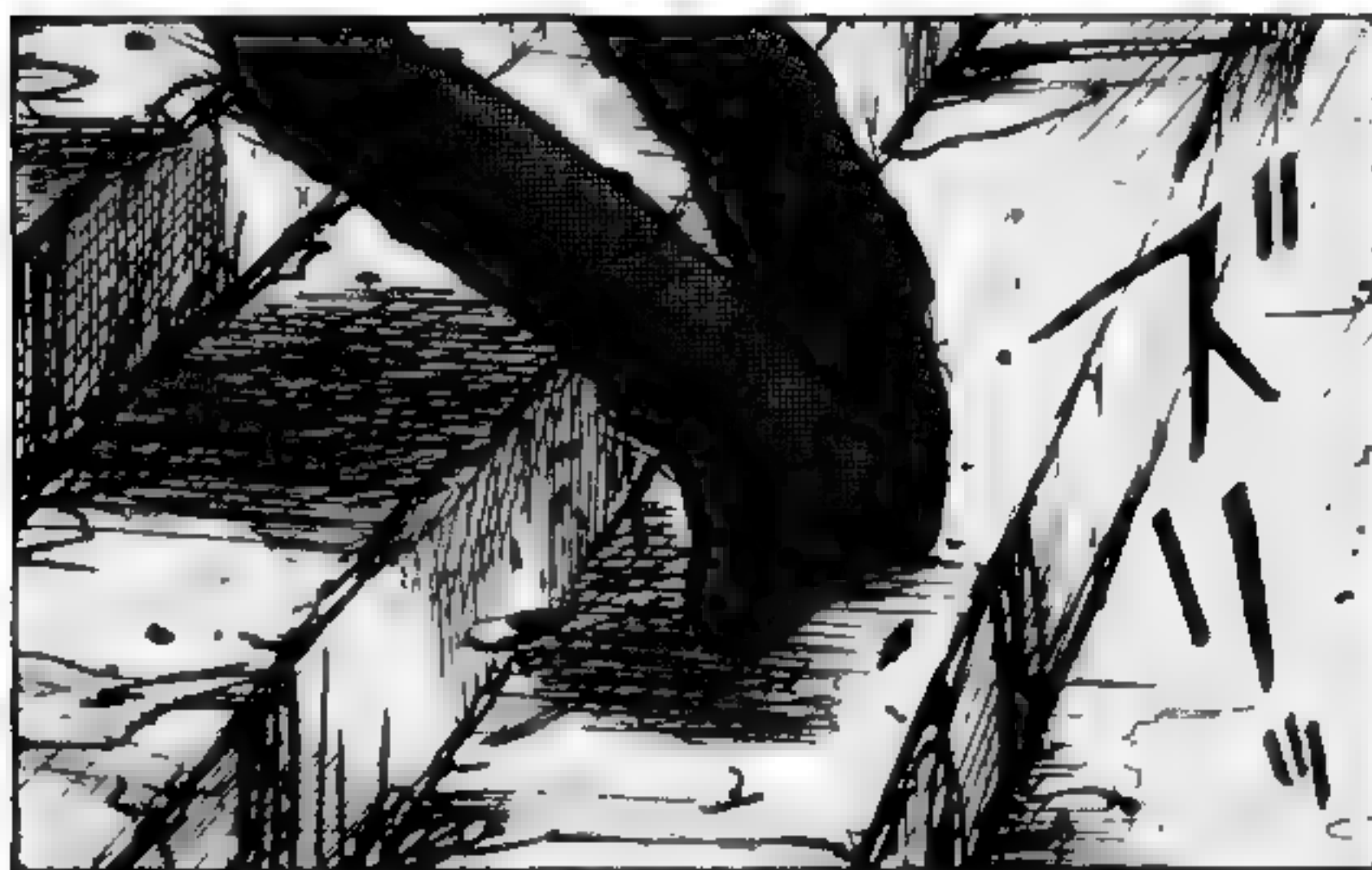
WITHOUT
THE ORDERS
OF A
HUMAN
WITH NET
TERMINAL
GENES...



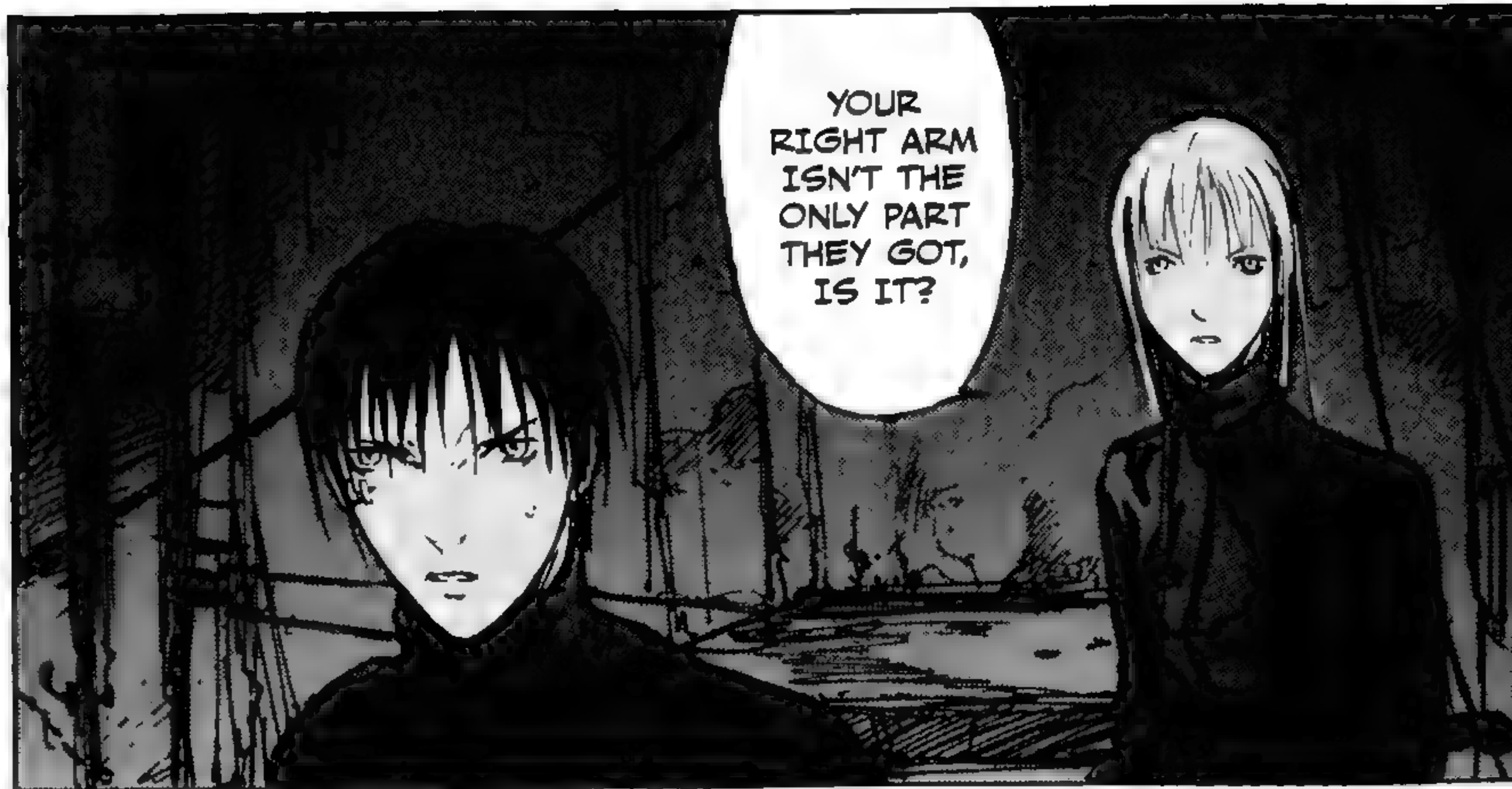
LOG.12@END

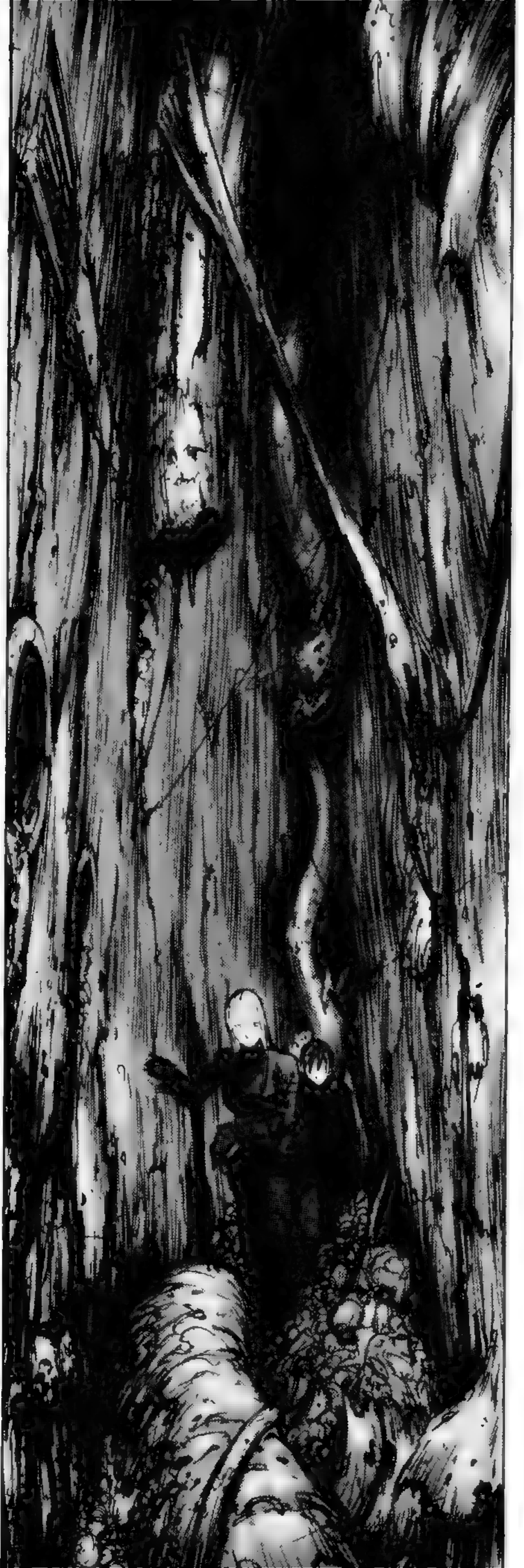
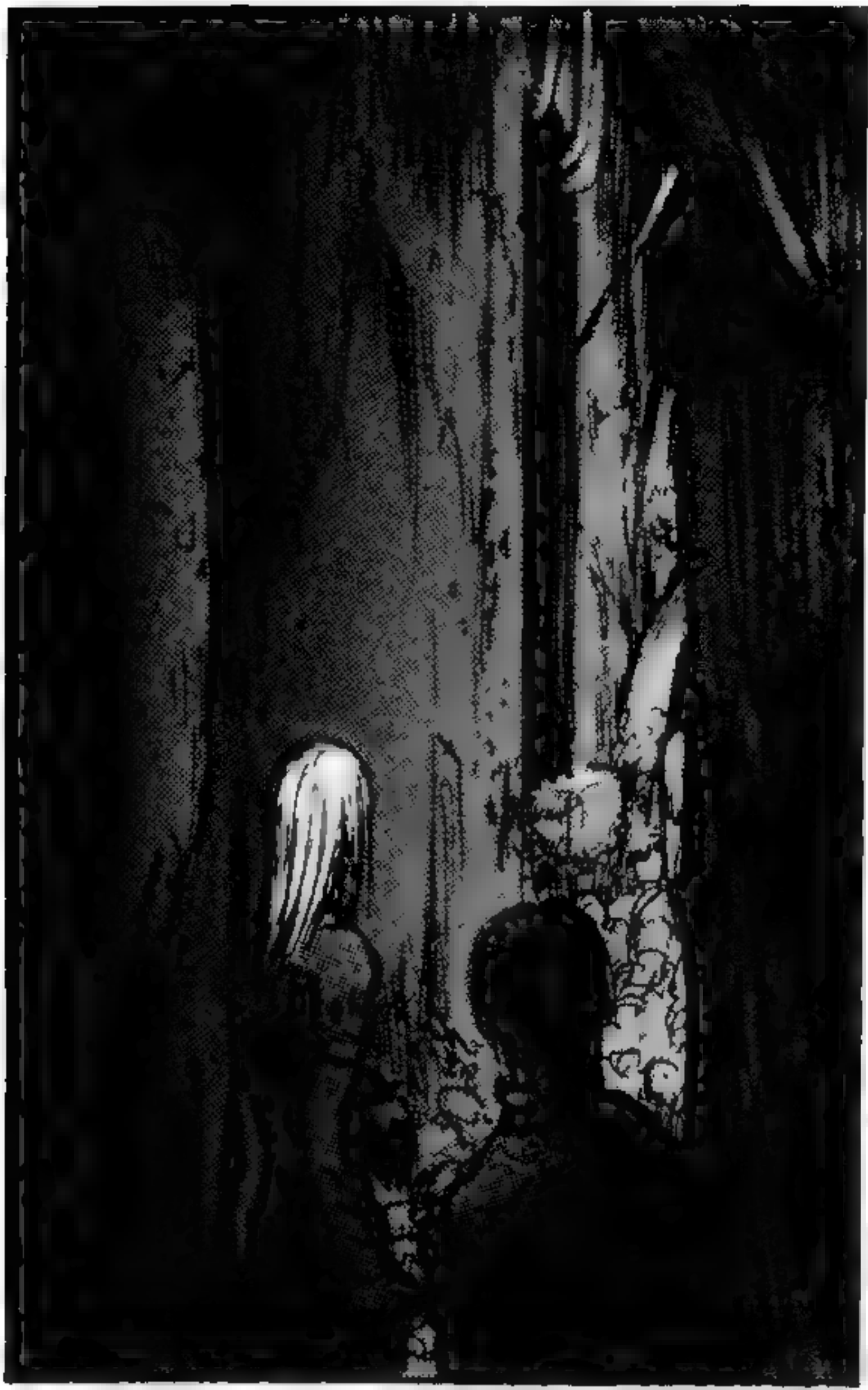


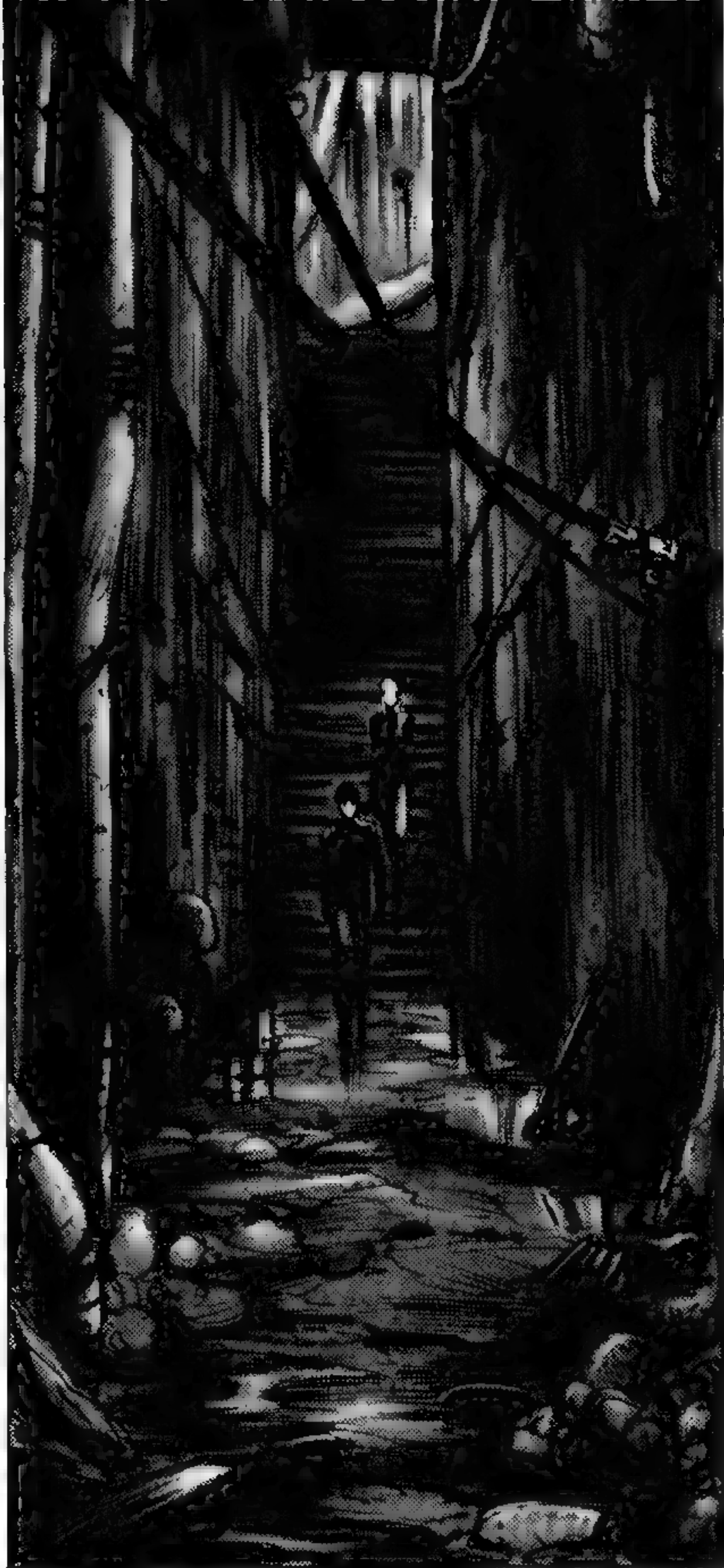














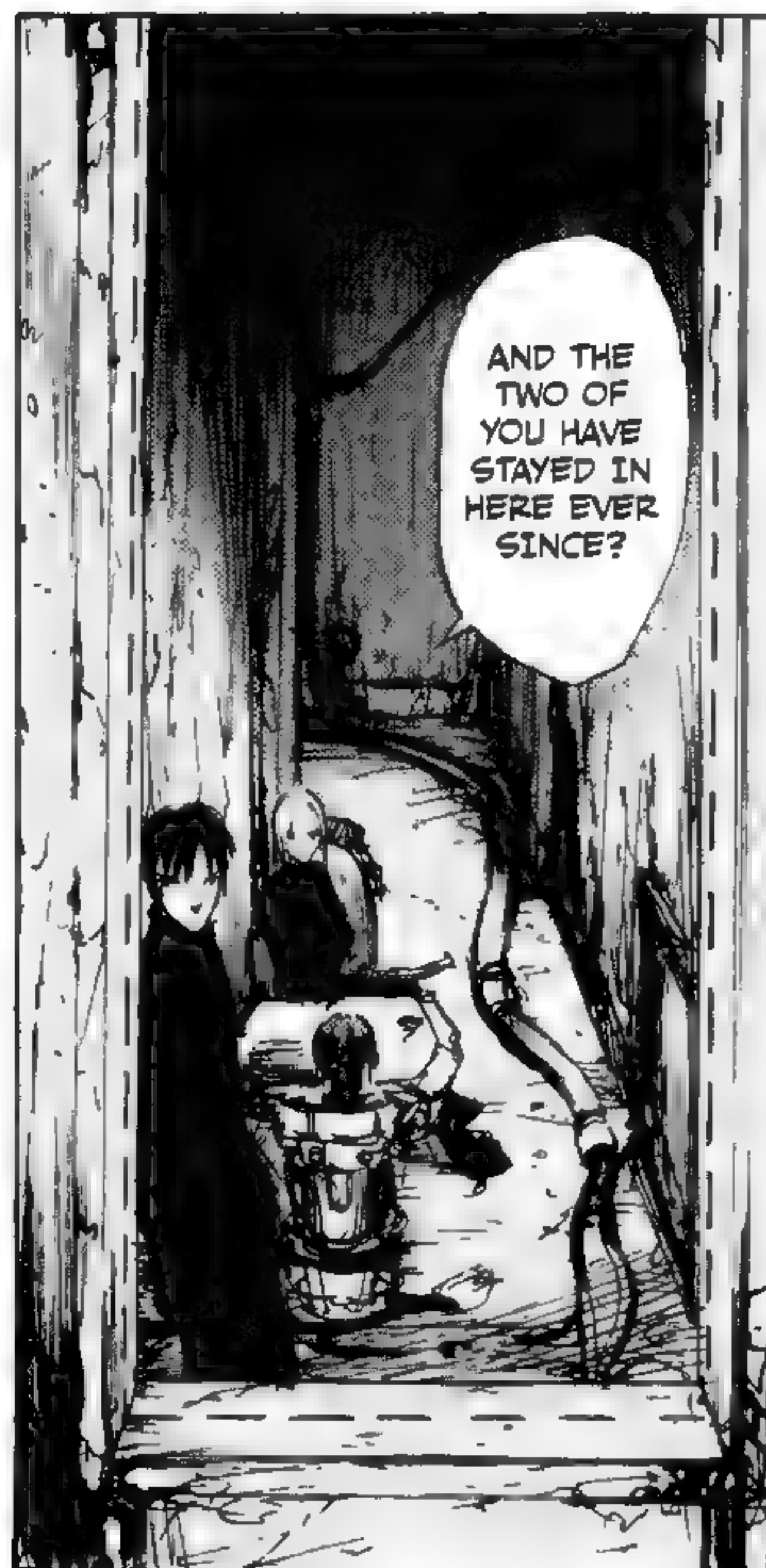
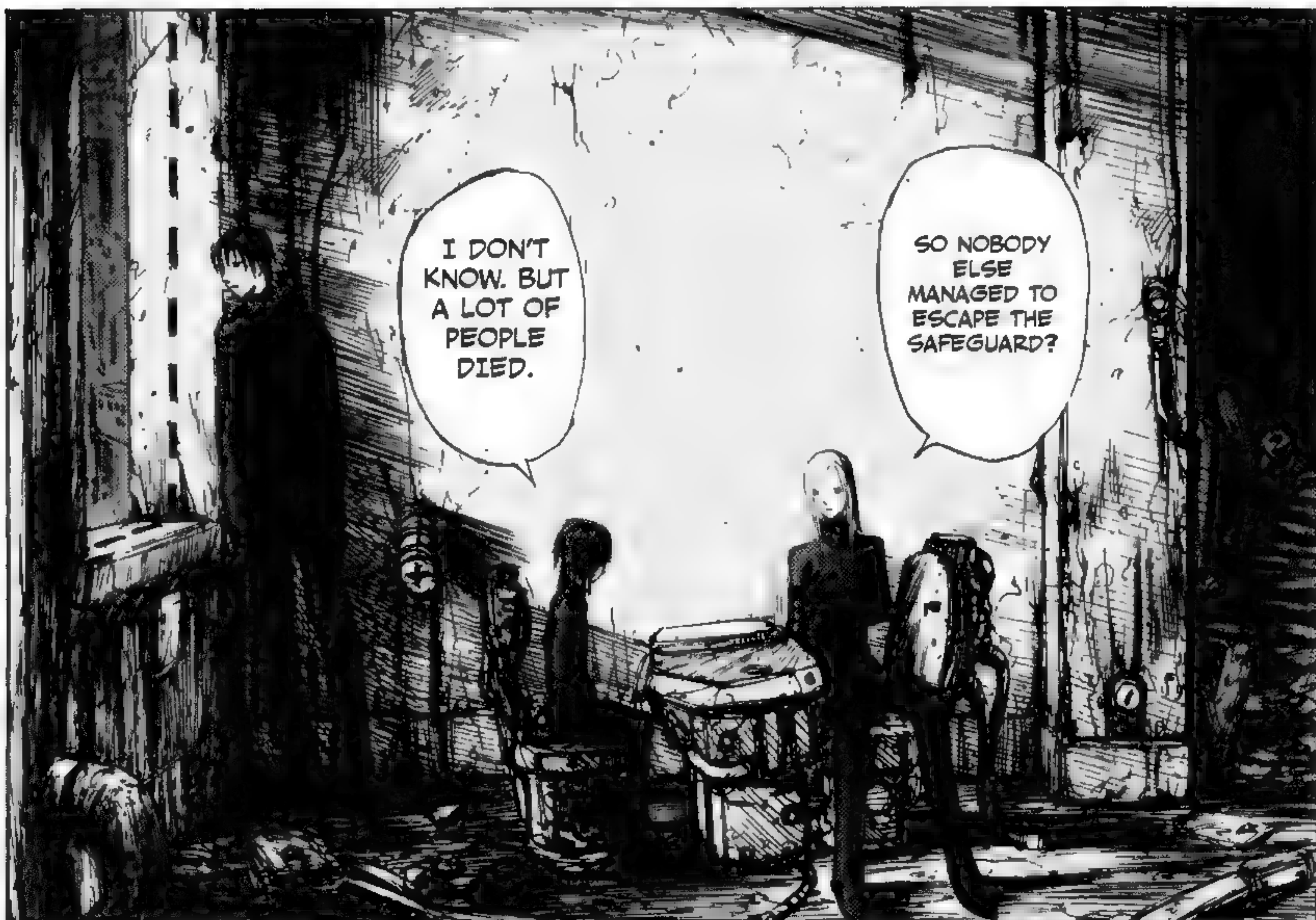


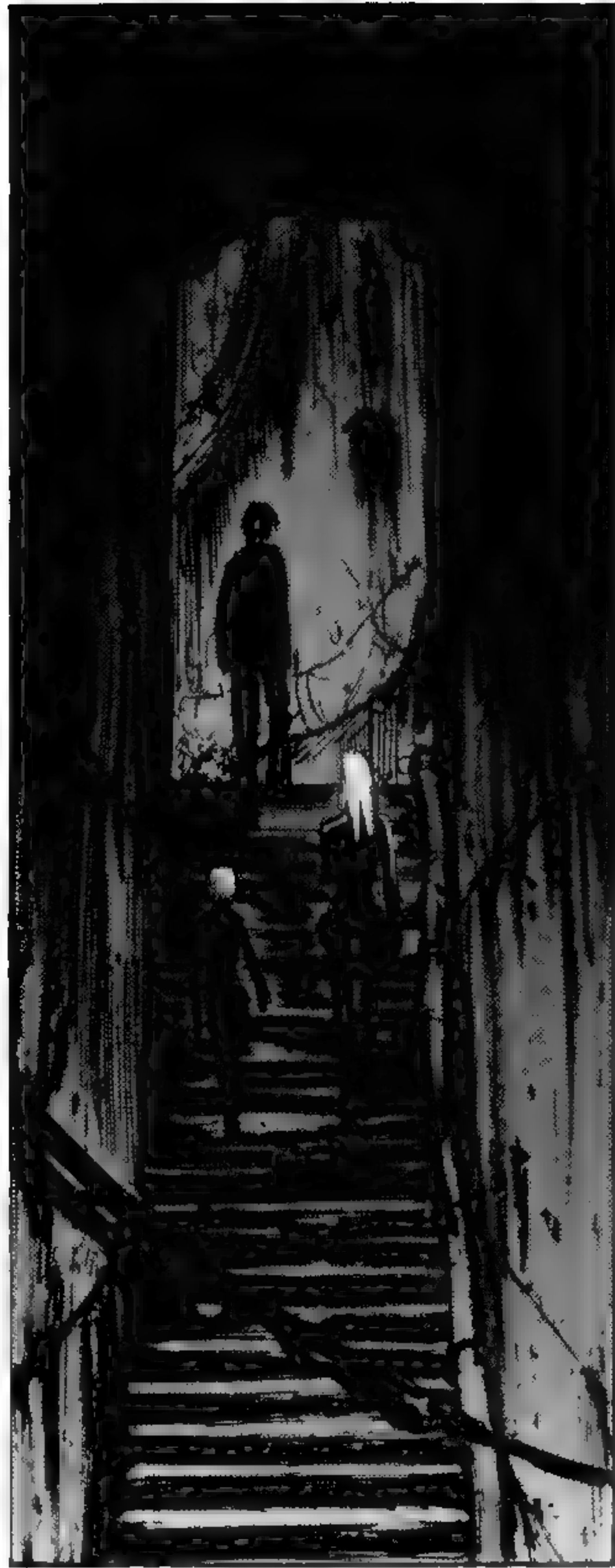


DOM











WHAT'S
WRONG,
CIBO?

!

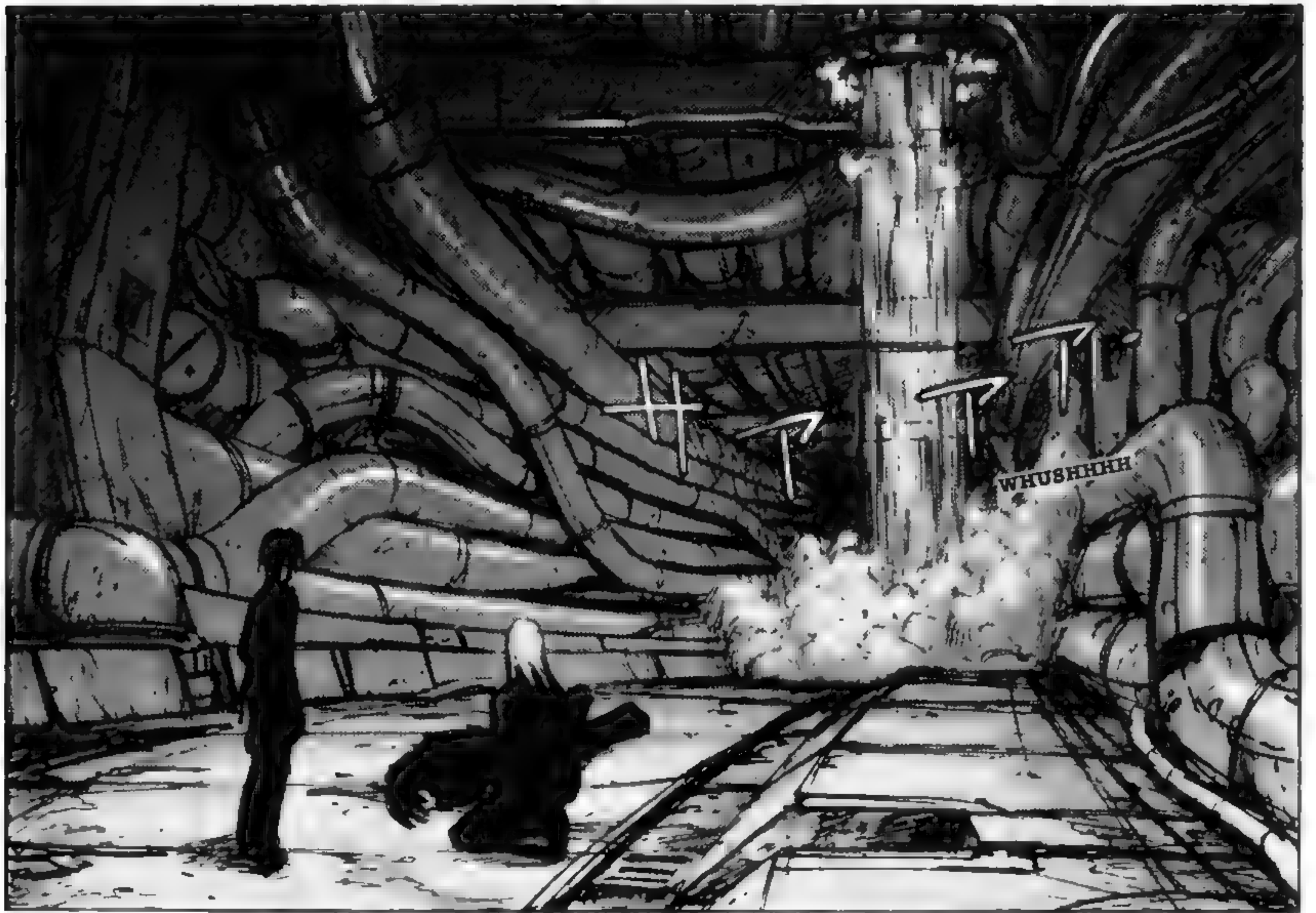
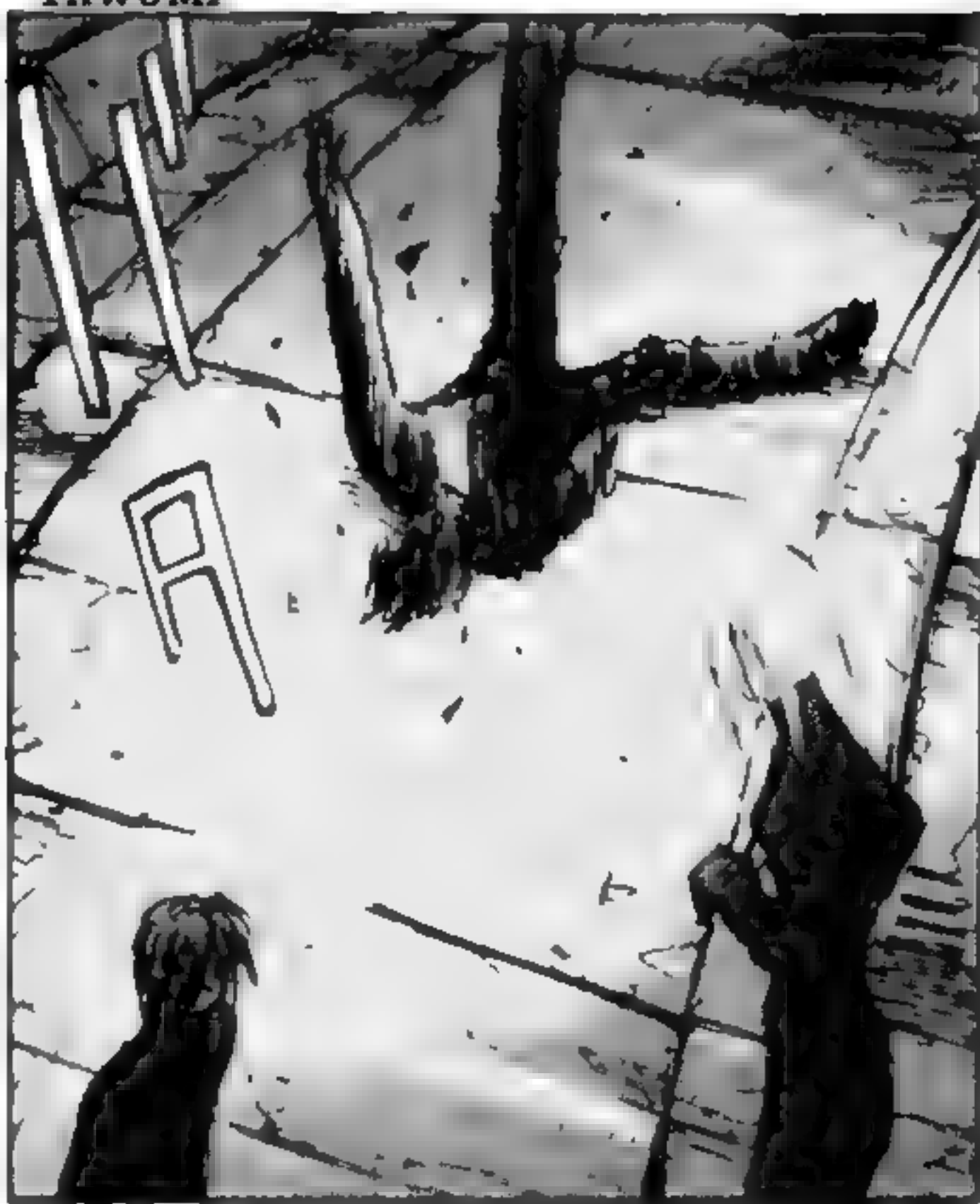
THEY
MUST BE
BLOCKING
EVERY-
THING
OUT.

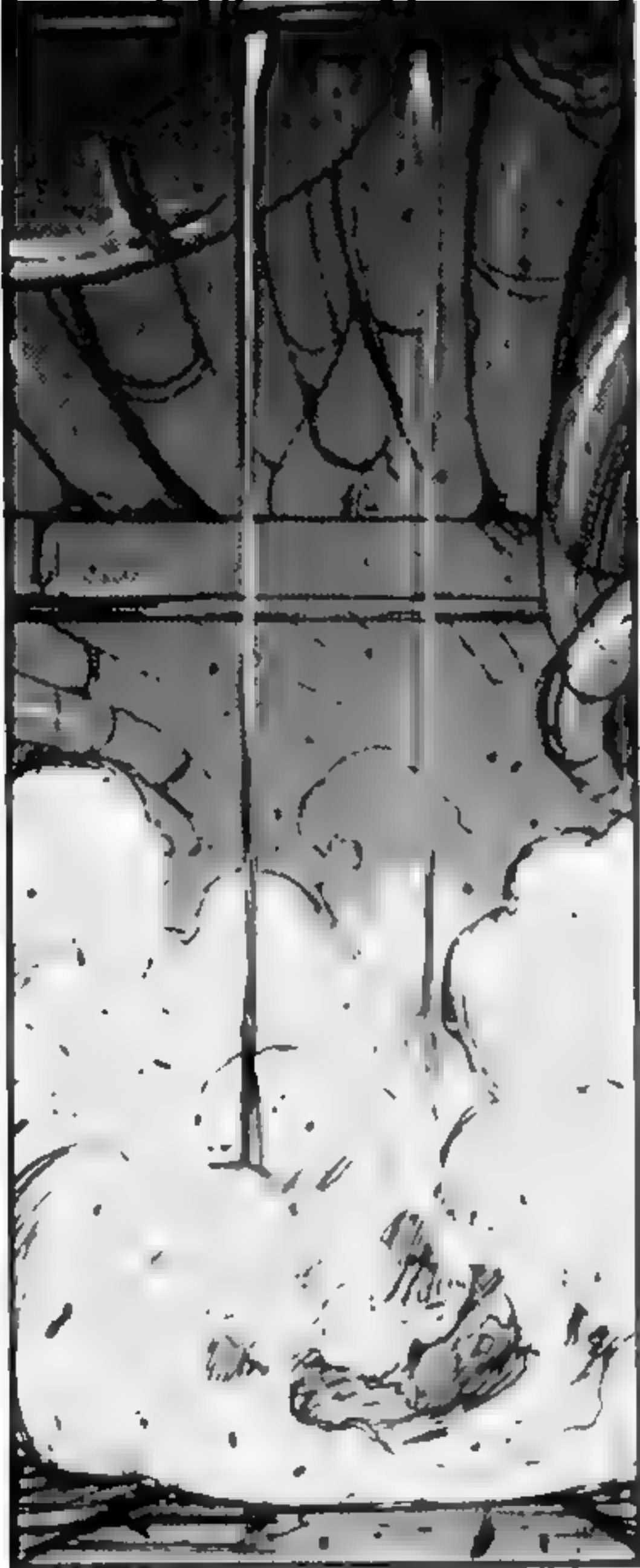
THE
WALLS
ARE
THICK
HERE.

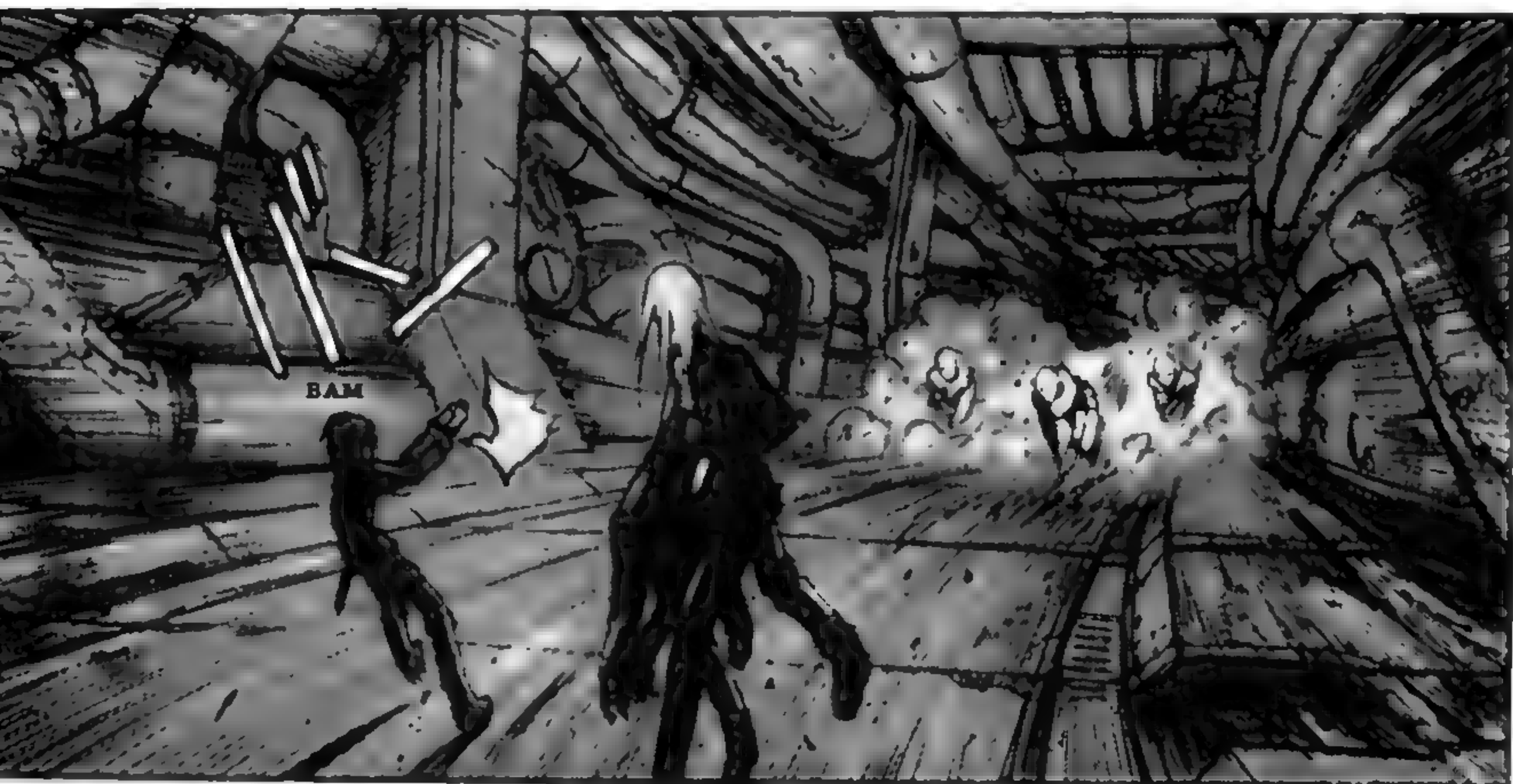
HUFF

HUFF

MY
SENSORS
AREN'T
WORKING.
SOMETHING'S
INTERFERING
WITH MY
SYSTEMS.





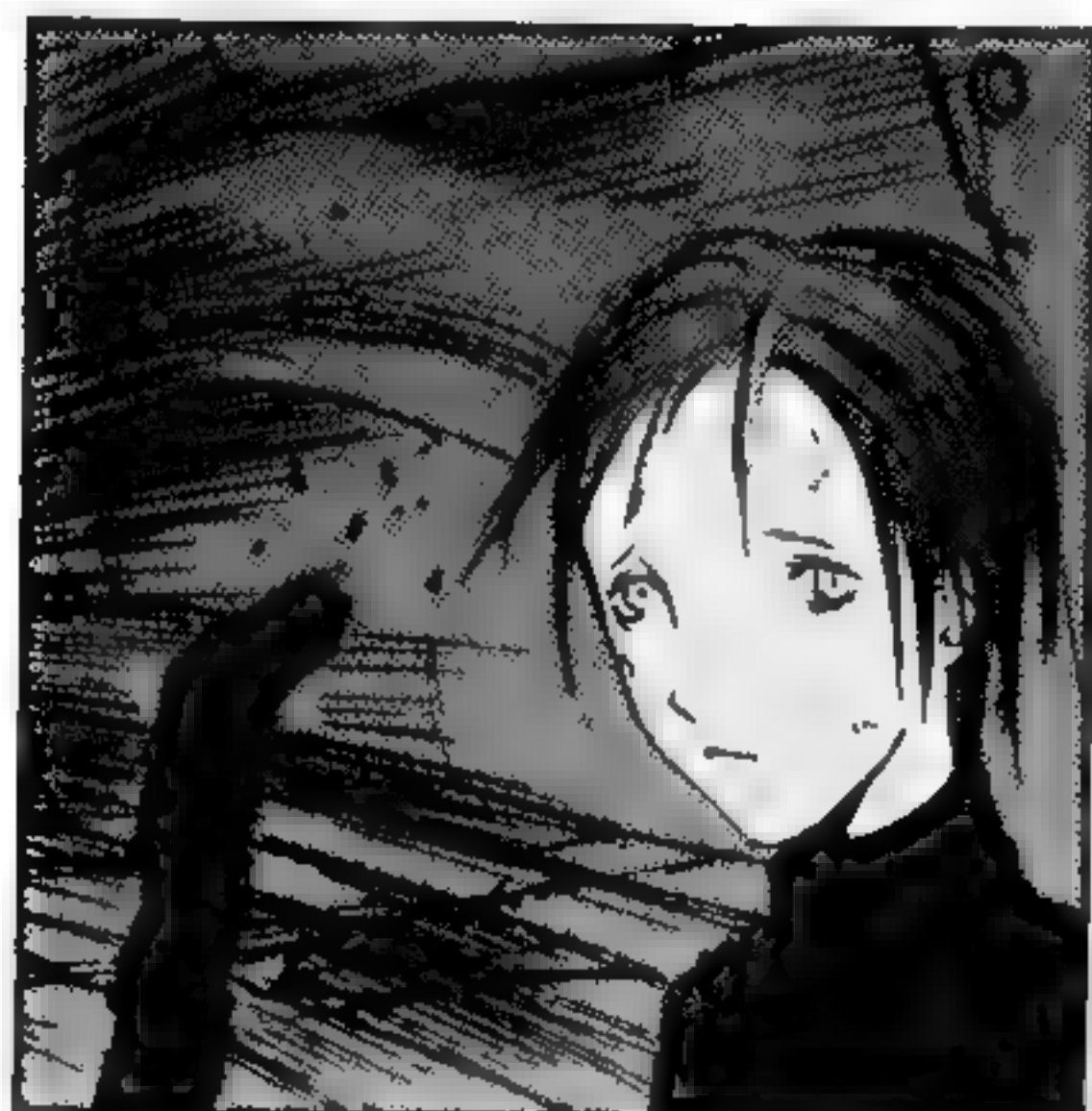








BLAM!



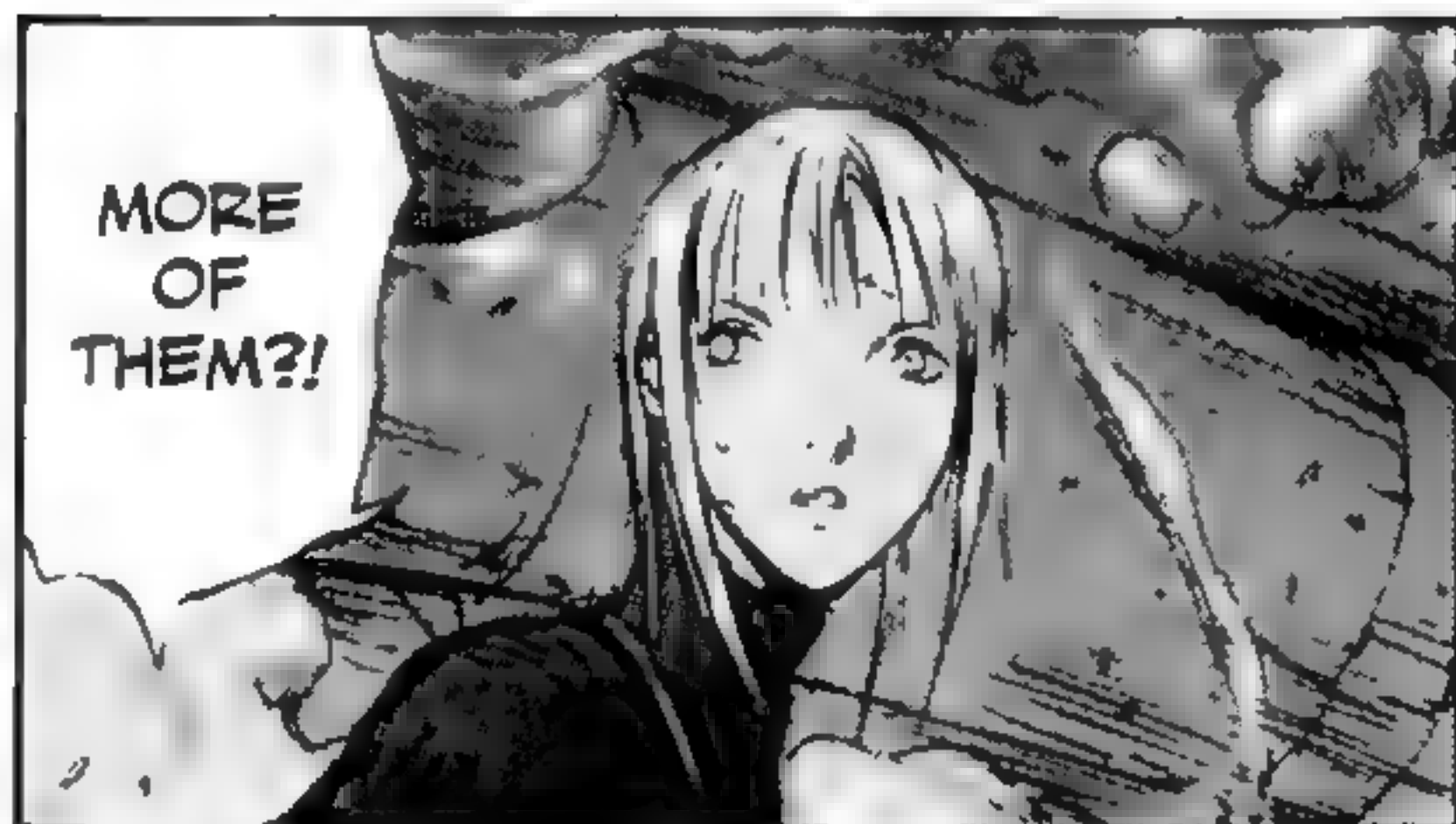
KA-BOOOM

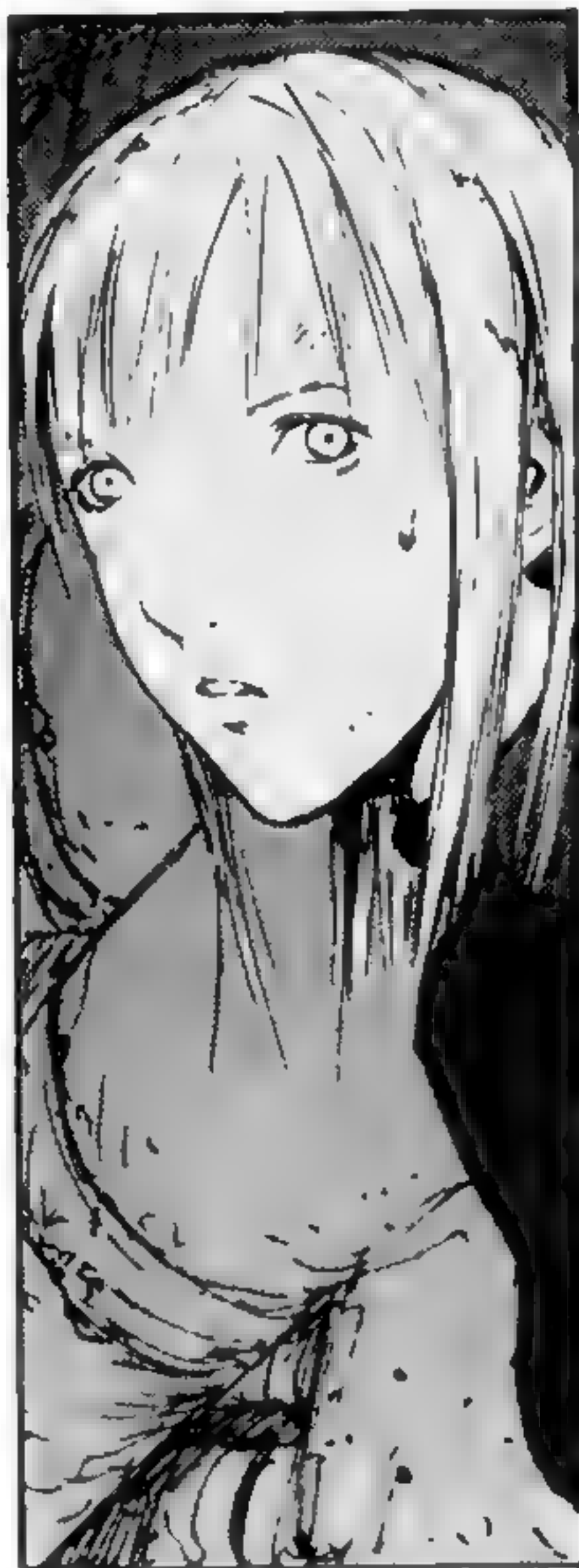
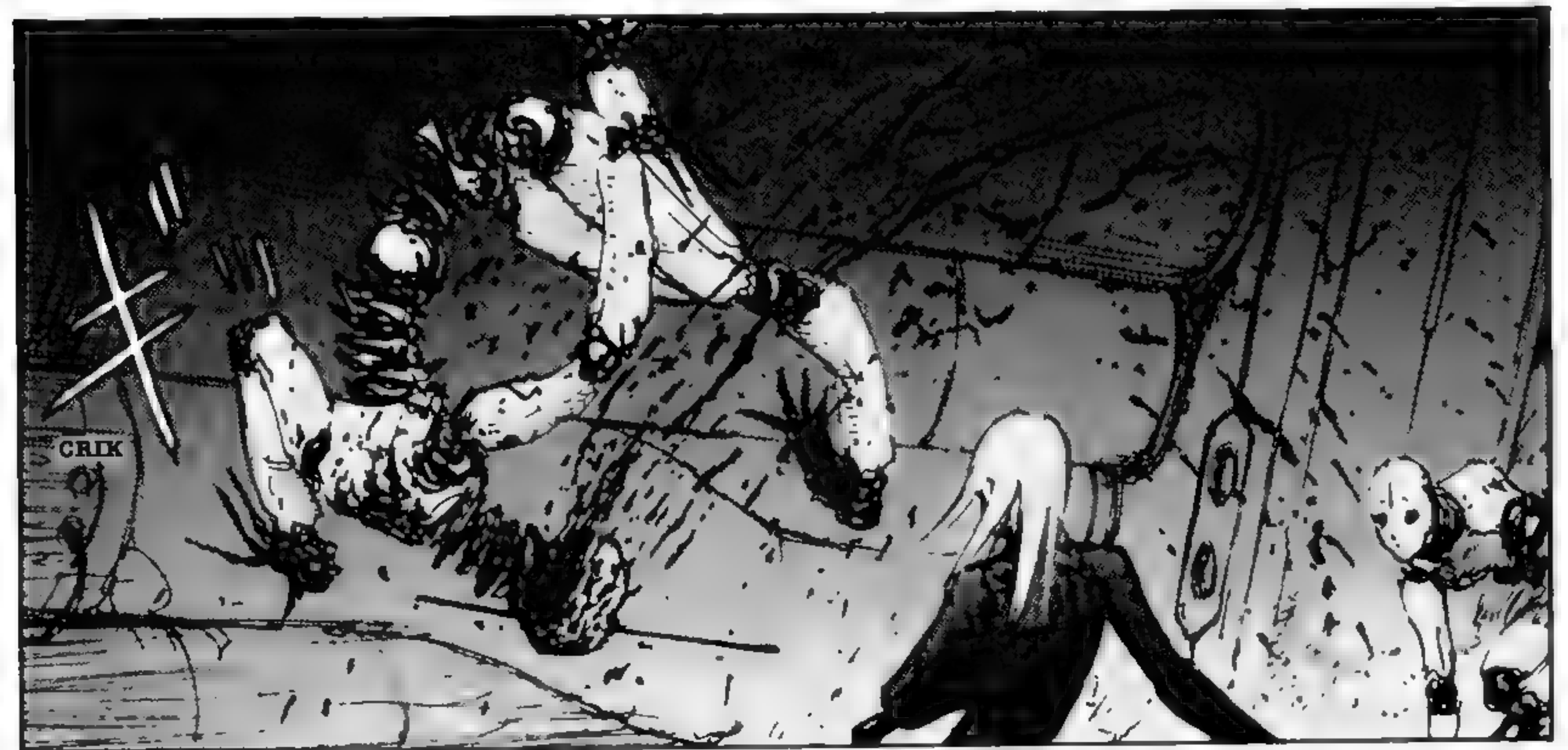




CLUNKK



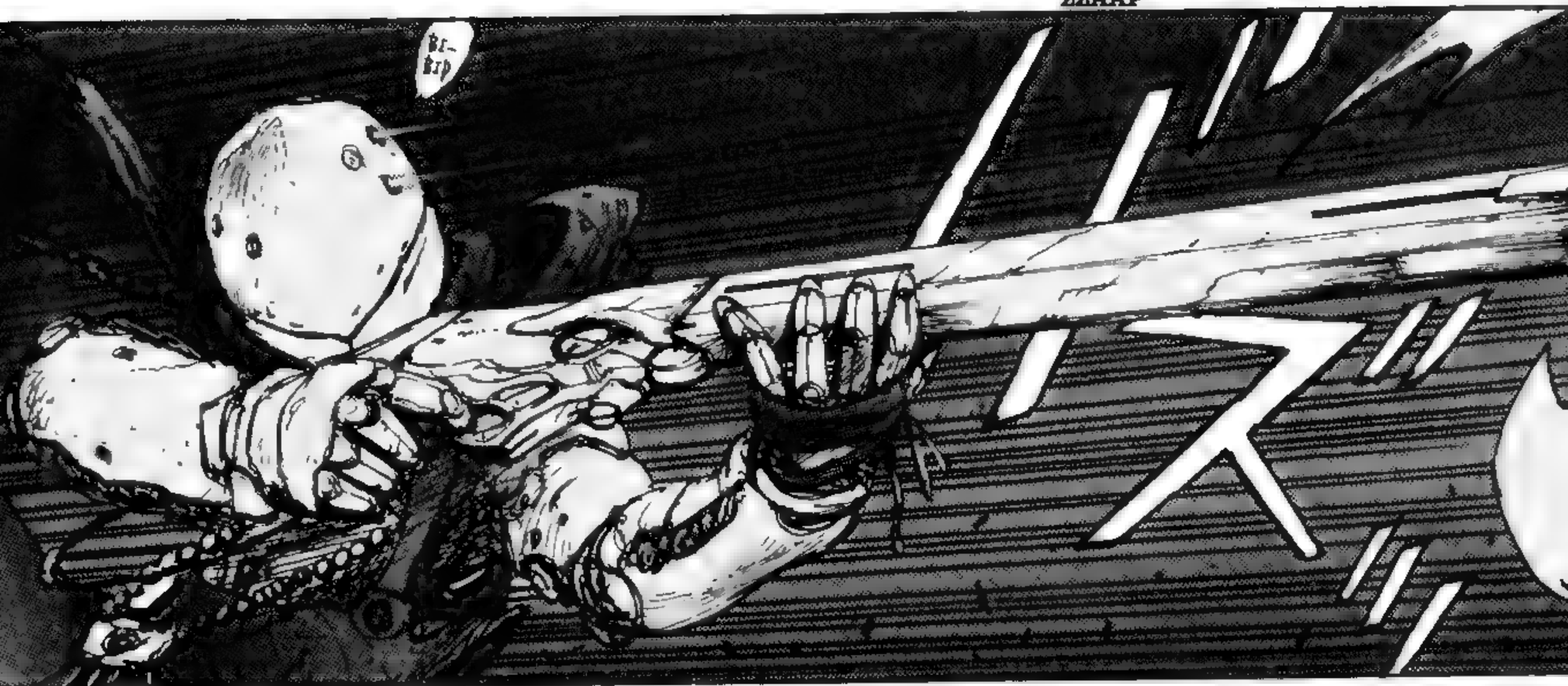




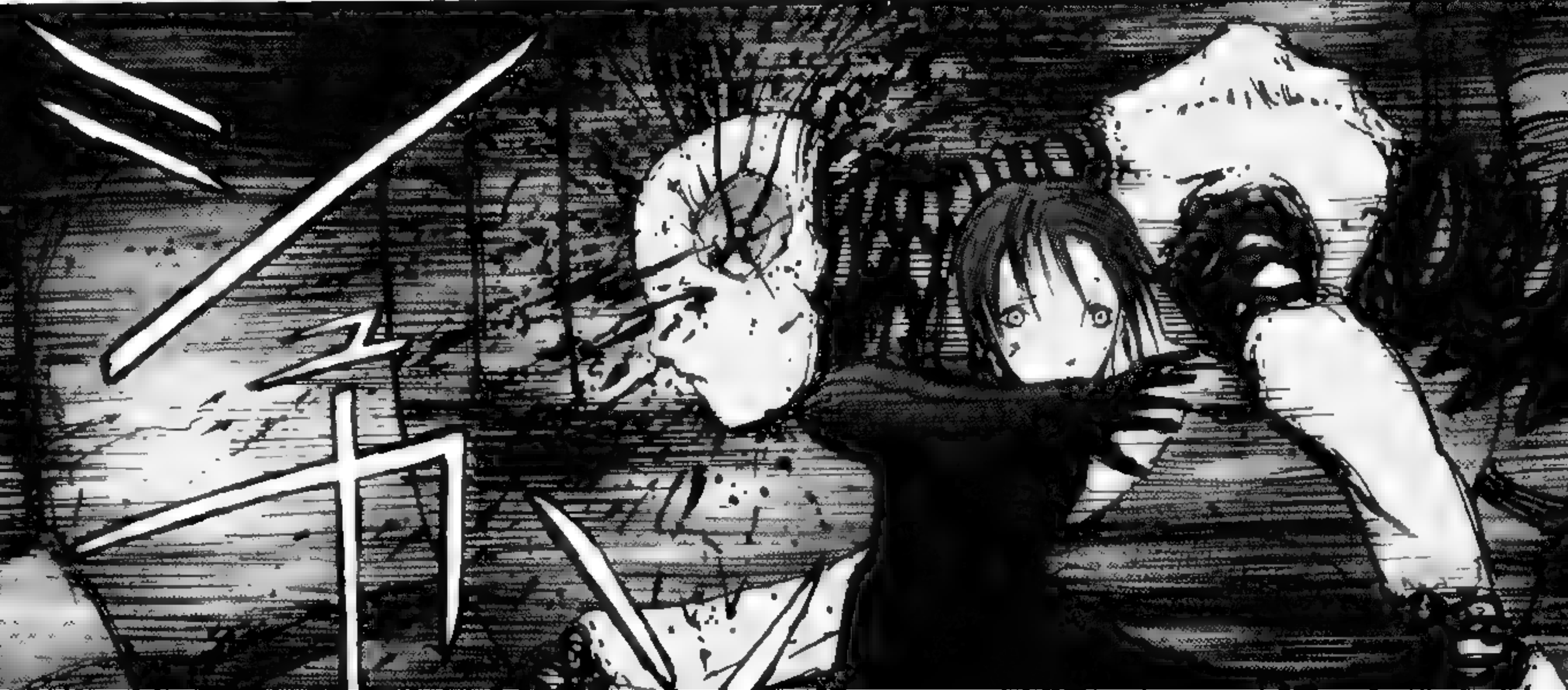




ZZAAP



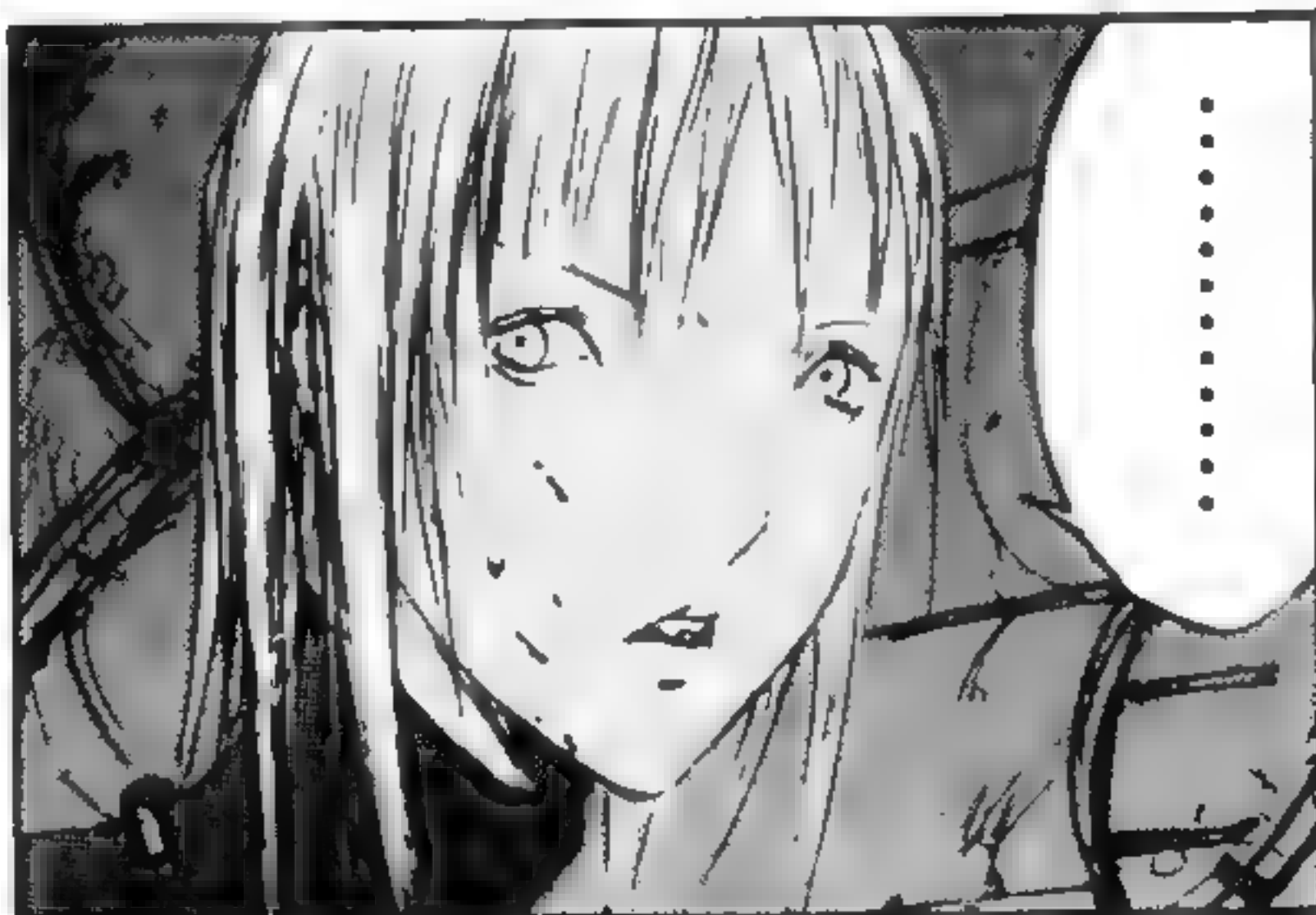
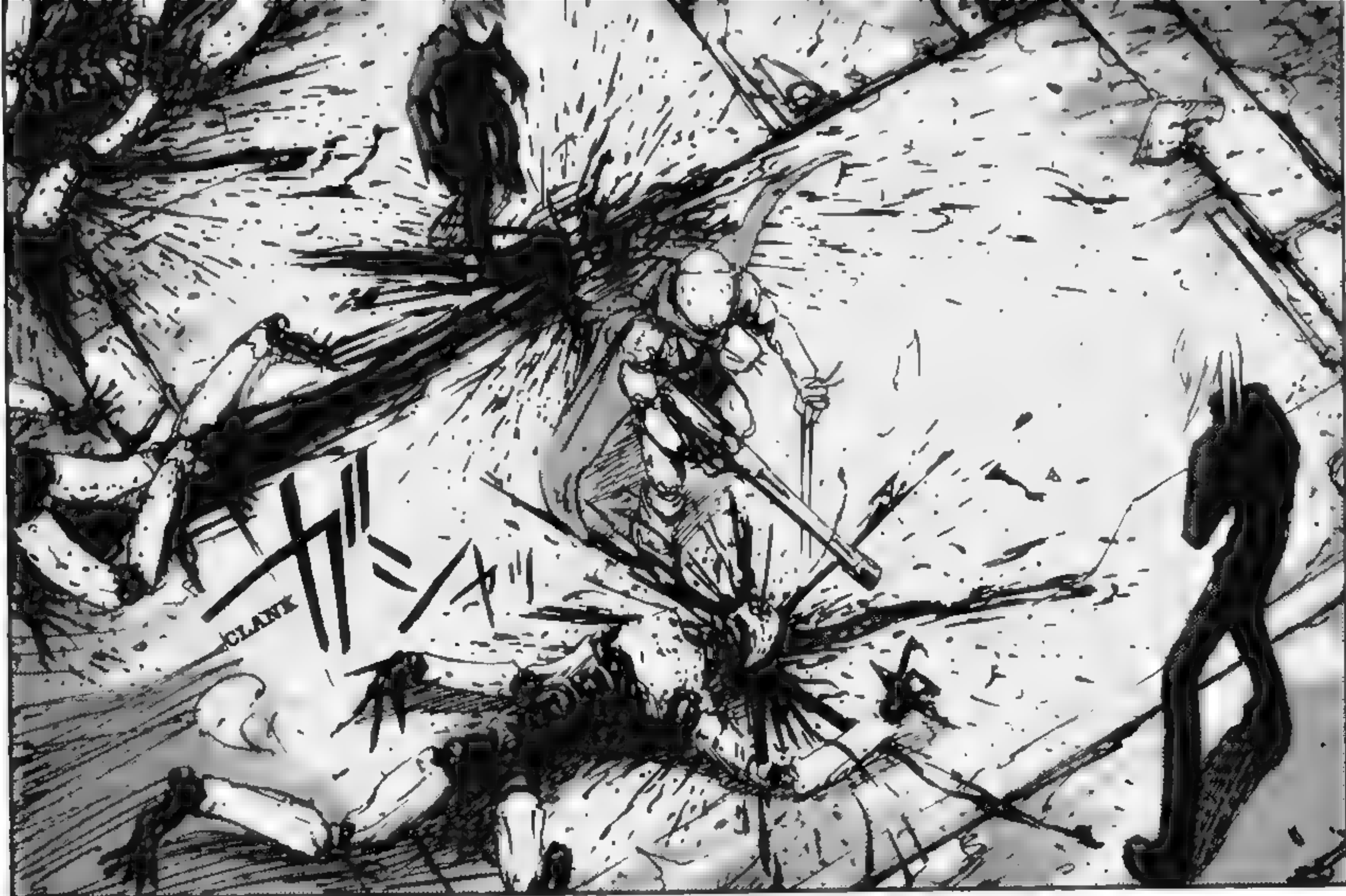
CRUNCH



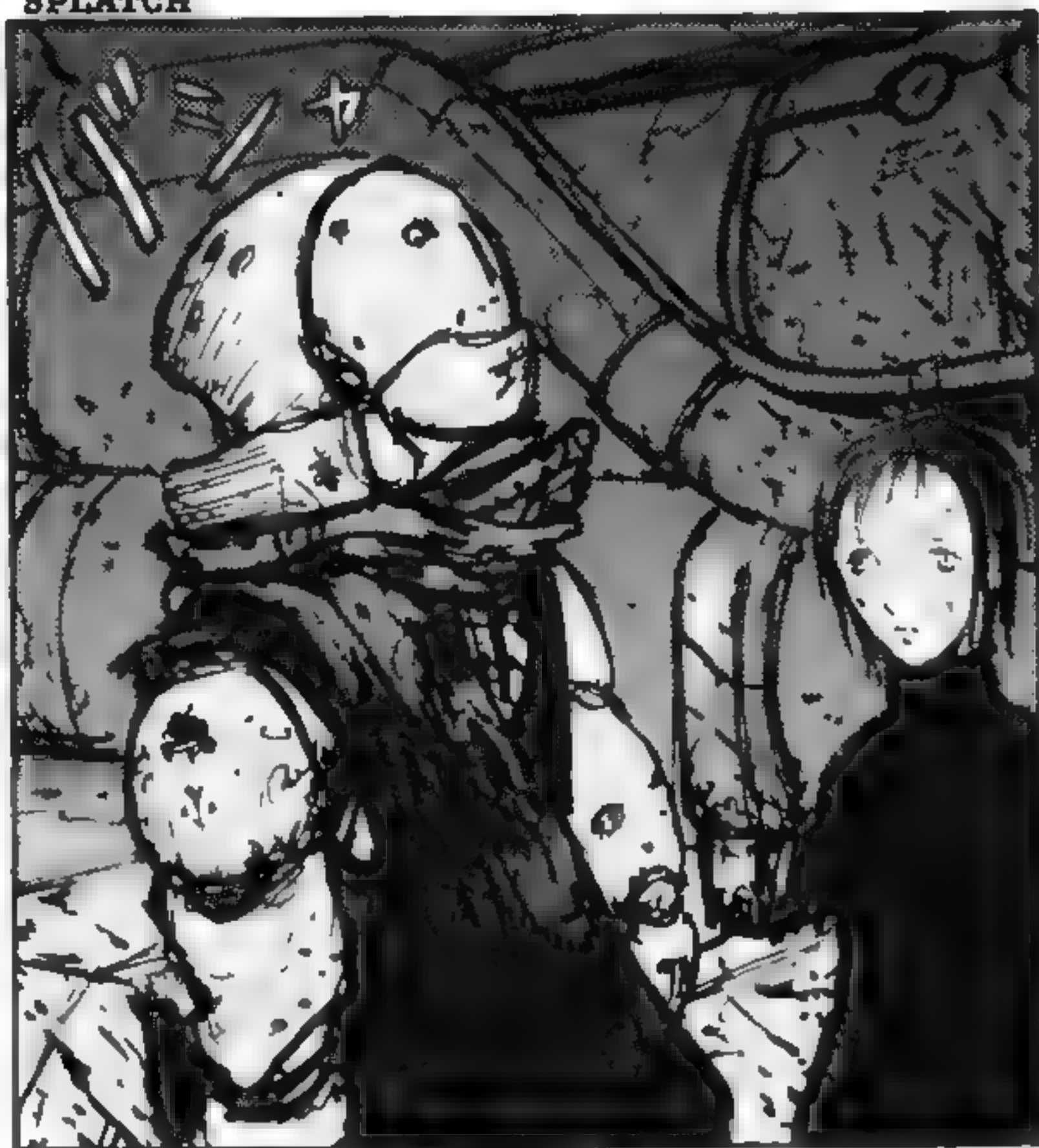


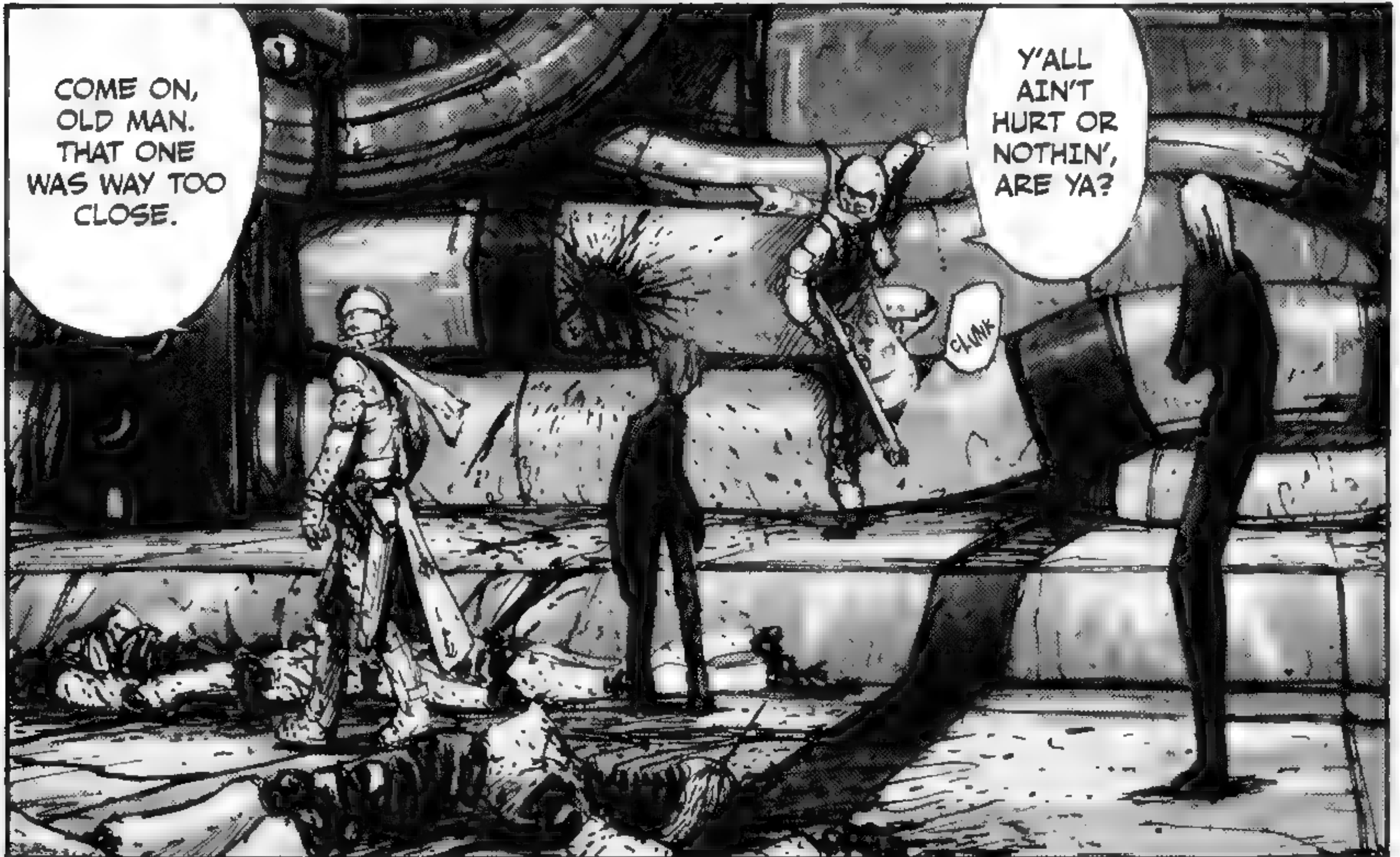
CHUNK

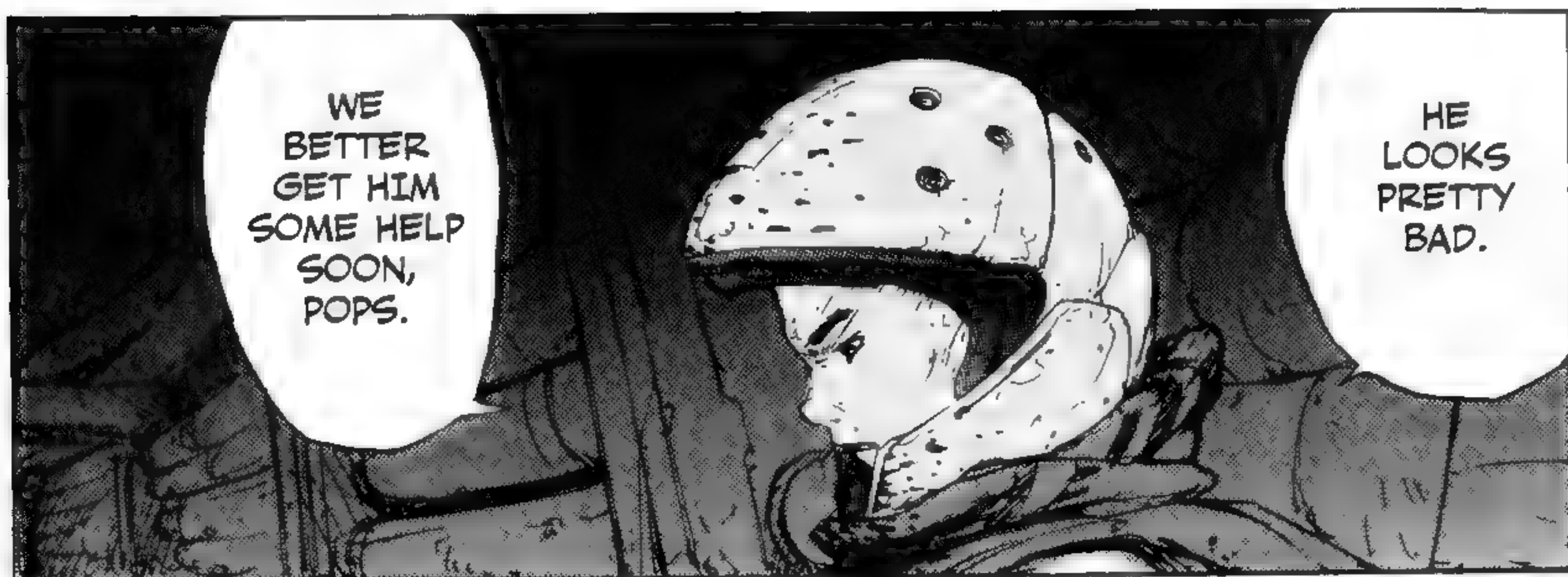




SPLATCH

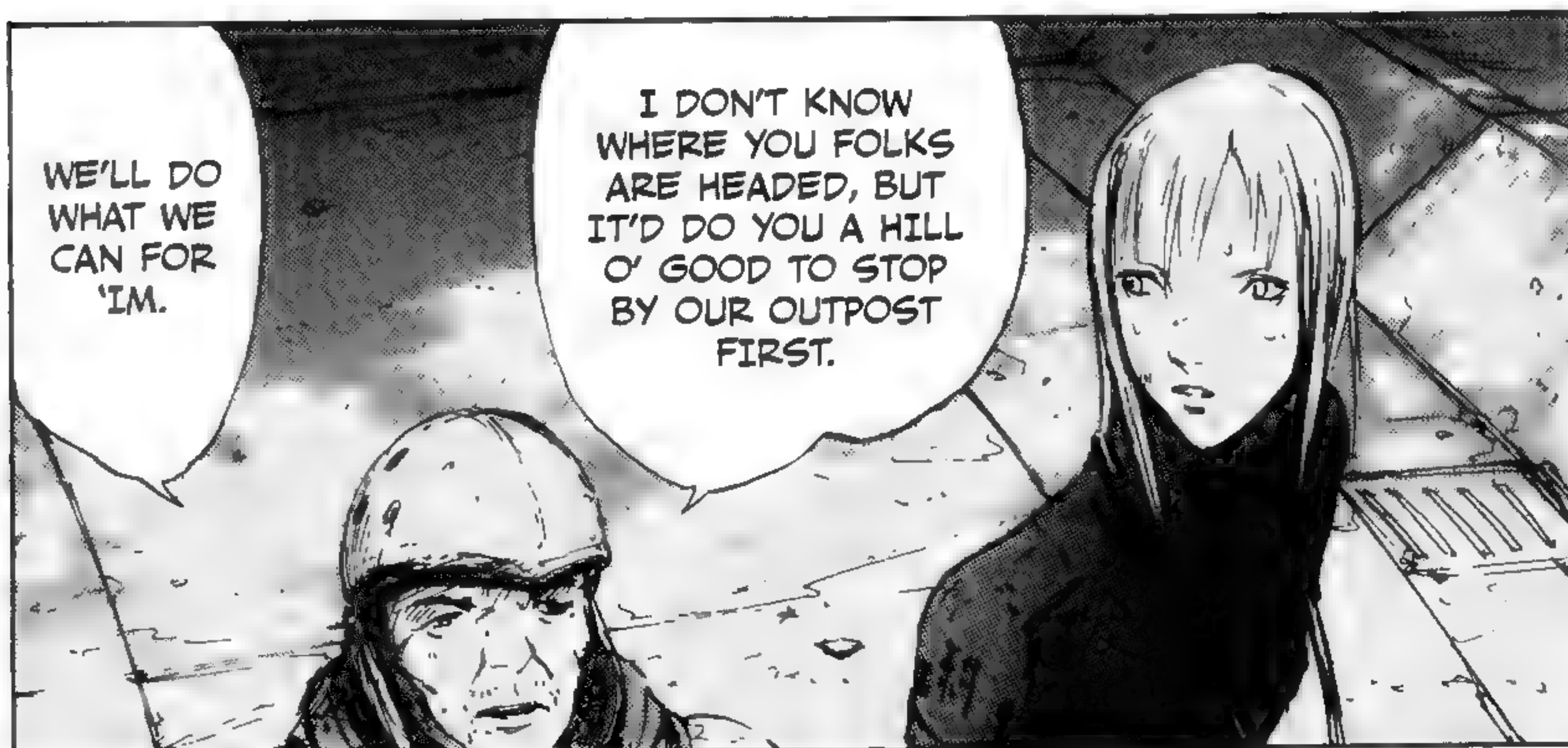






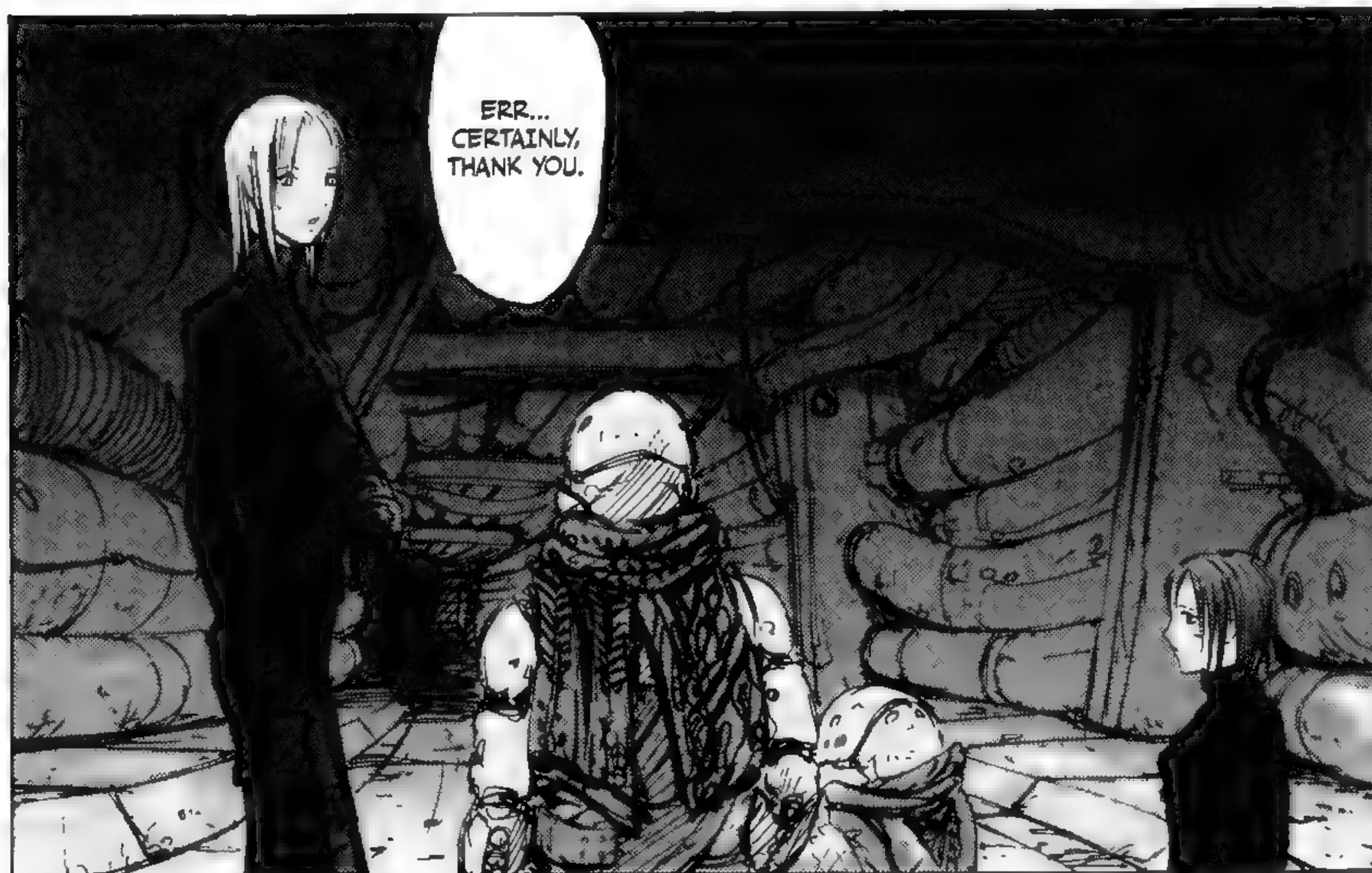
WE
BETTER
GET HIM
SOME HELP
SOON,
POPS.

HE
LOOKS
PRETTY
BAD.



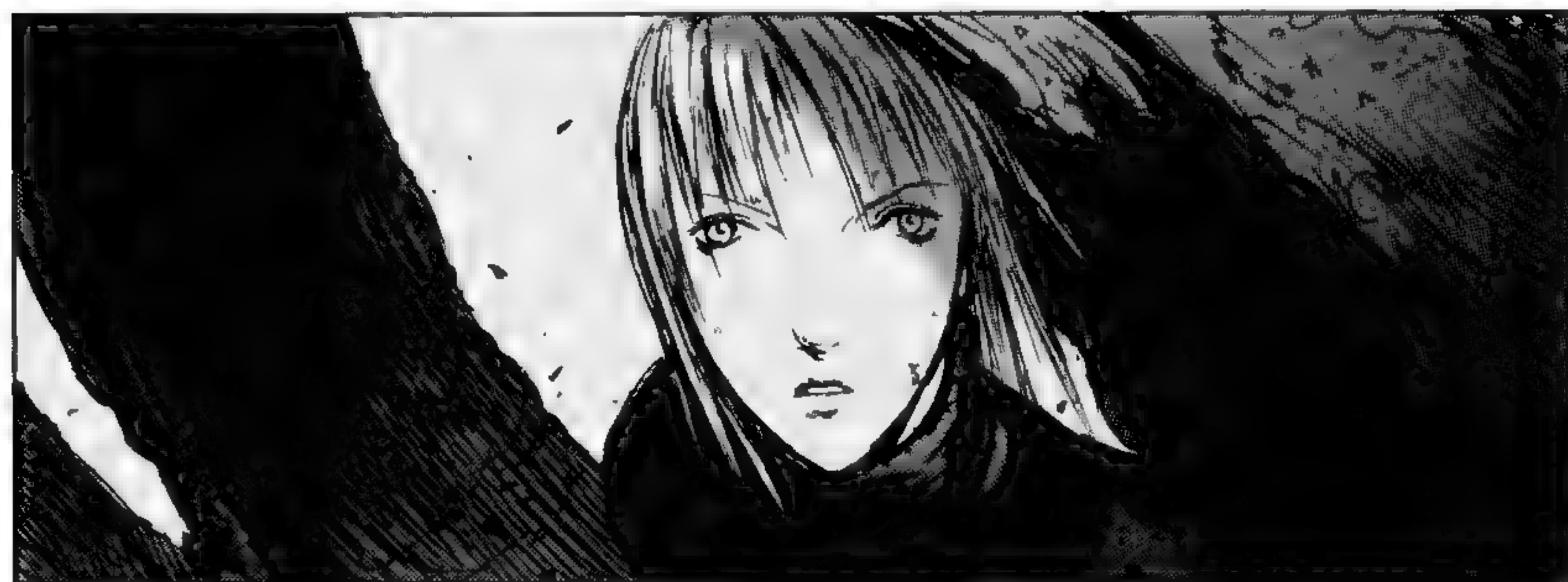
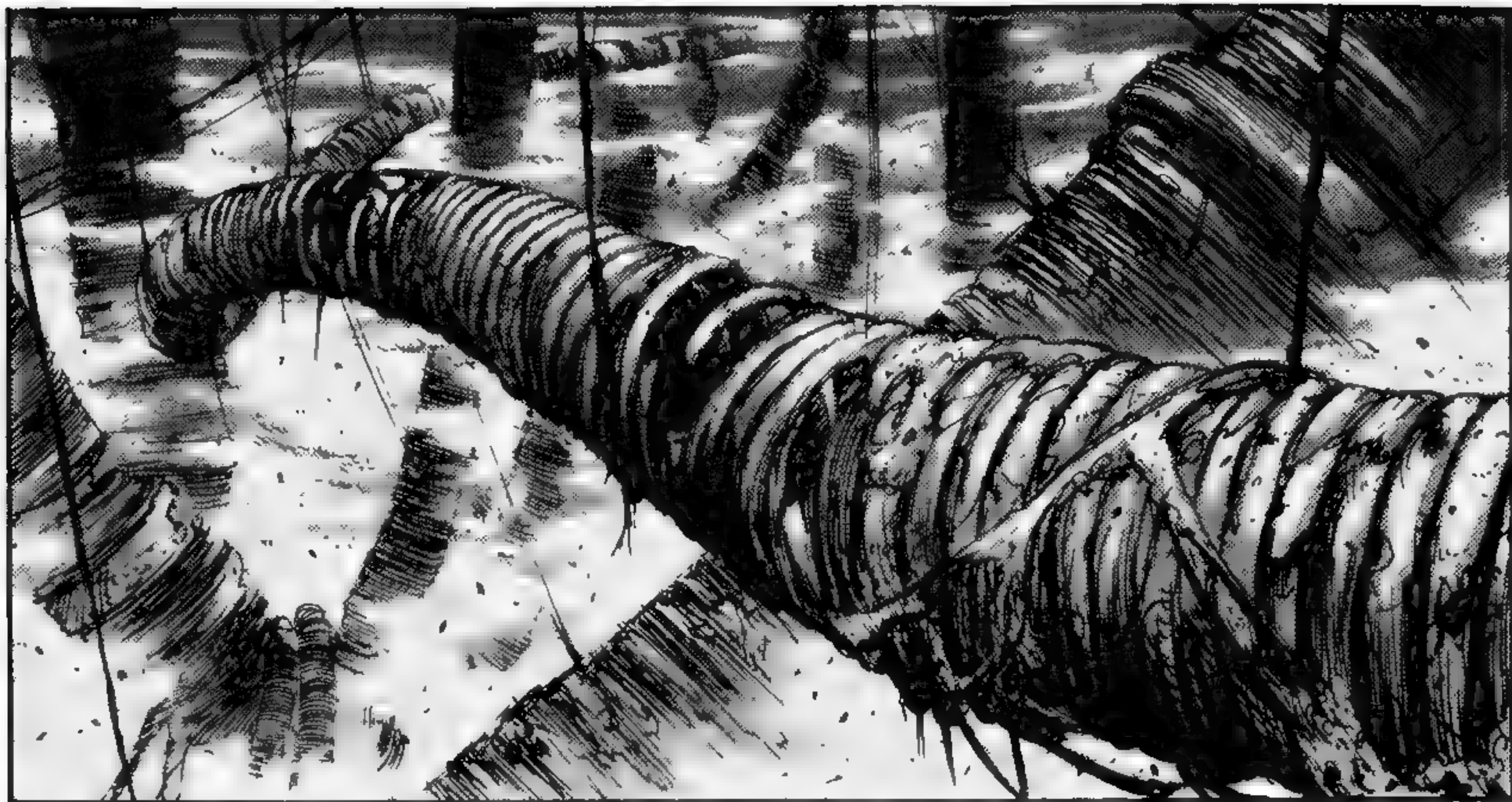
WE'LL DO
WHAT WE
CAN FOR
'IM.

I DON'T KNOW
WHERE YOU FOLKS
ARE HEADED, BUT
IT'D DO YOU A HILL
O' GOOD TO STOP
BY OUR OUTPOST
FIRST.



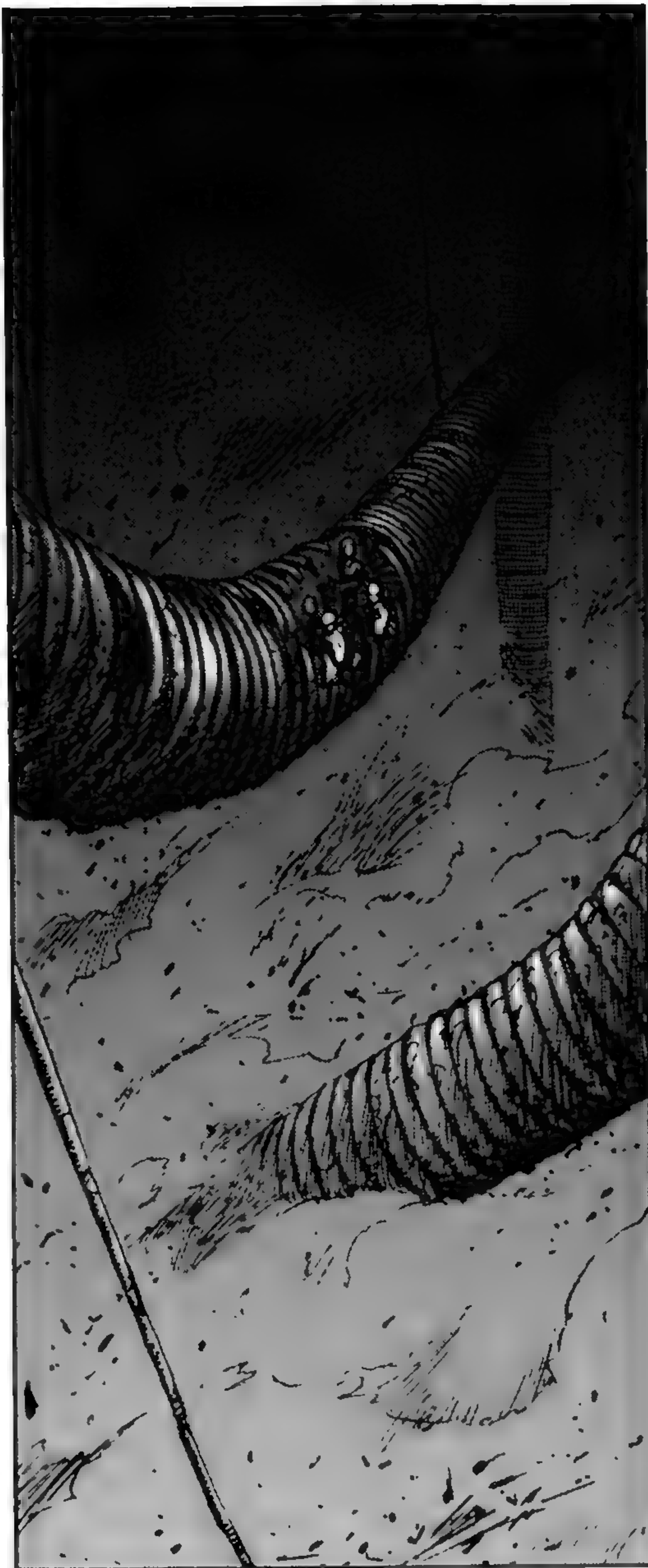
ERR...
CERTAINLY,
THANK YOU.





LOG.13@END

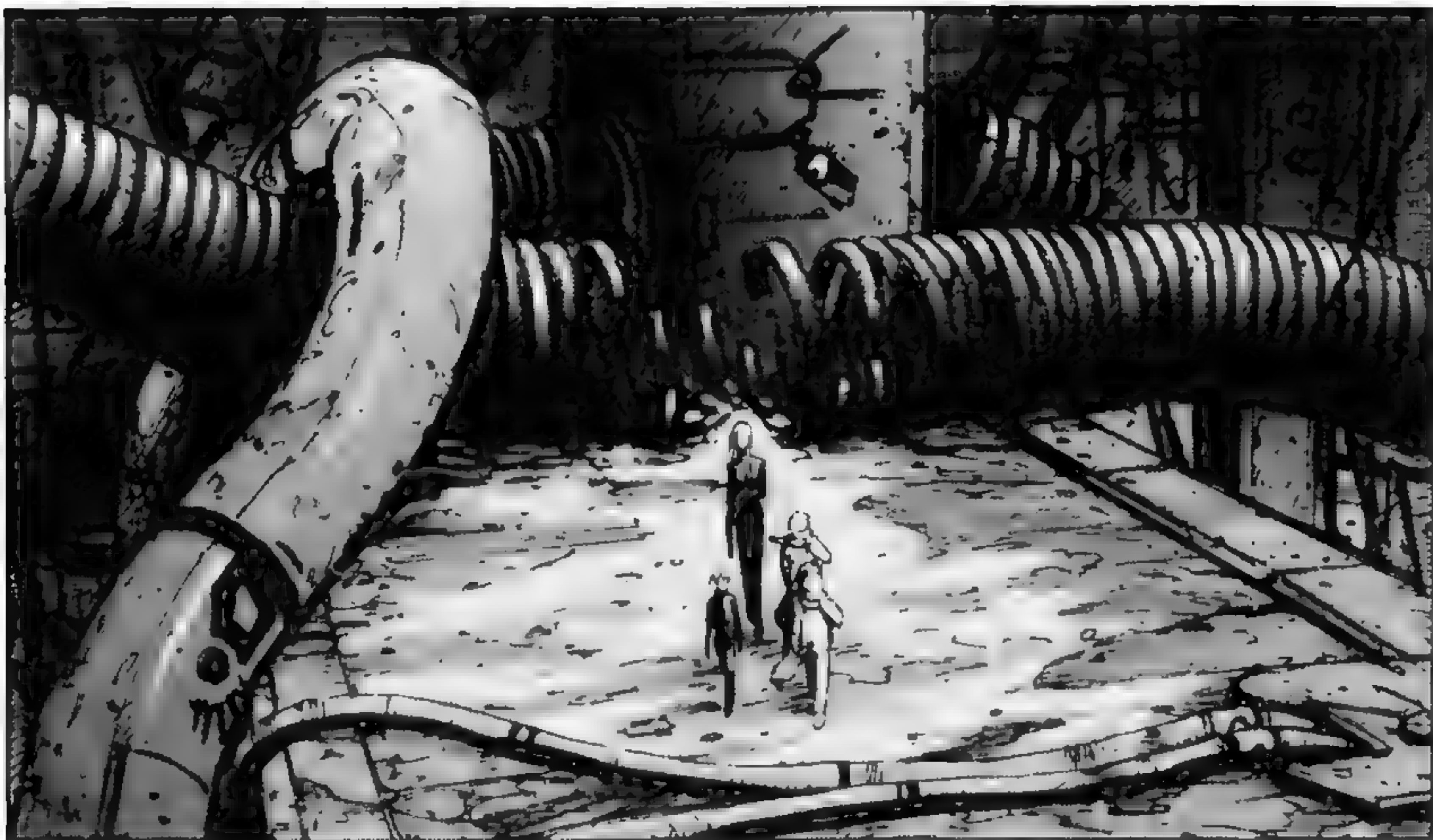
SO THAT
WAS YOUR
SETTLE-
MENT?



RIGHT NOW
WE'VE GOTTA
GET THROUGH
THIS PIPE. IF
THE SAFEGUARD
ATTACKS US
HERE, WE'RE
GONERS.

I'LL
TELL YA
ALL YA
WANNA
KNOW
WHEN
WE GET
SETTLED.







DON'T GET
TOO CLOSE
TO THE
EDGE!



WE TAKE A
MONORAIL
CONVOY
FROM
HERE.

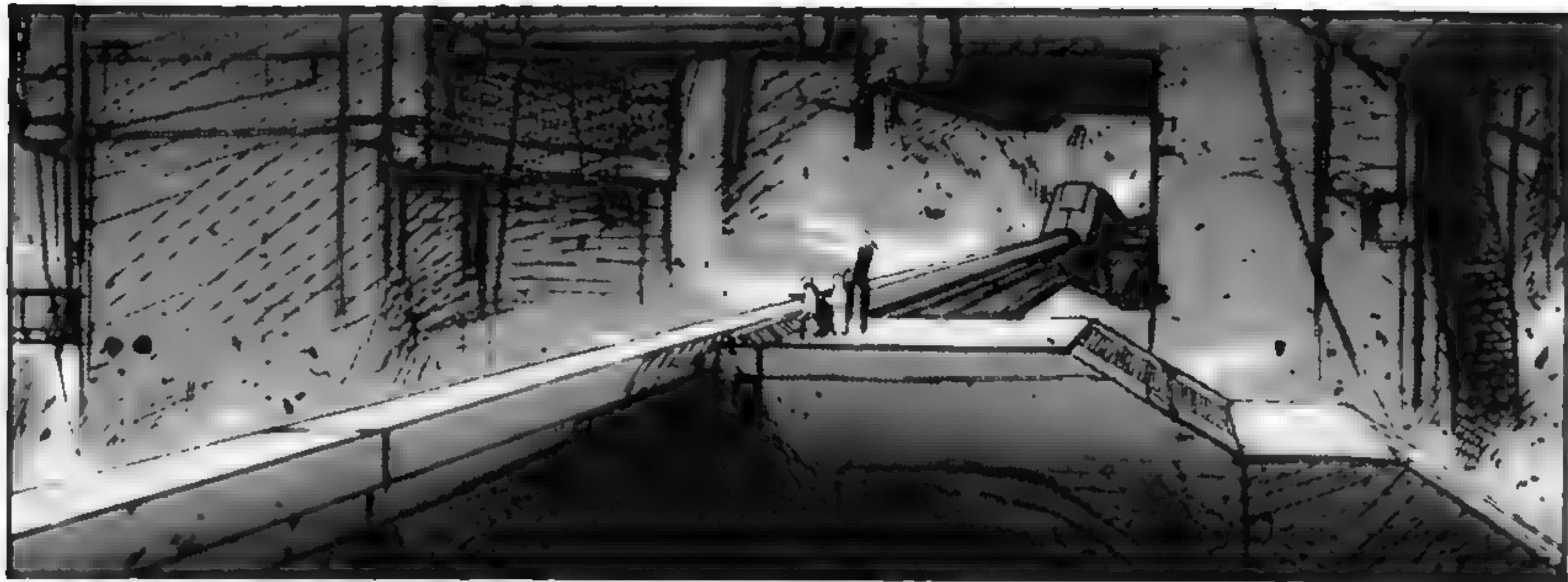


SANA-
KAN.

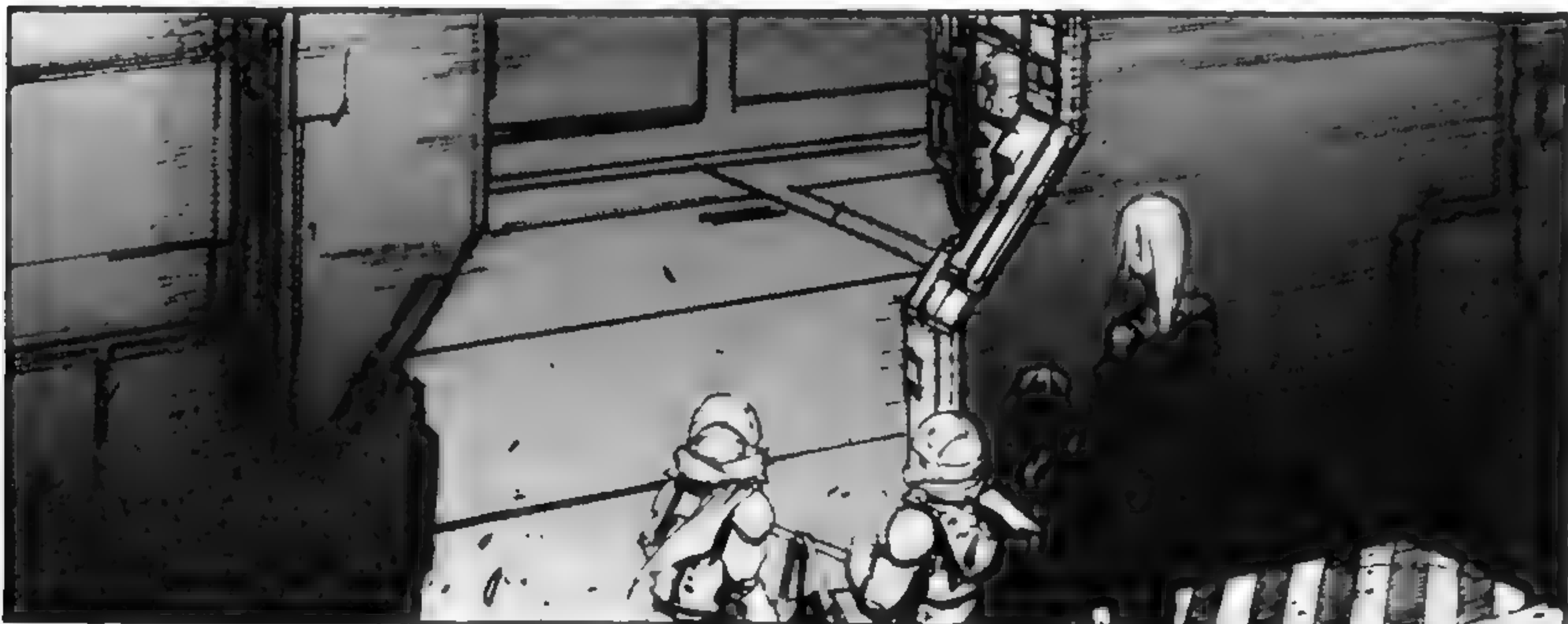
WHAT'D
YOU SAY
YOUR
NAME
WAS?

YOU HAVE
TO STAY
INSIDE THE
LINES. IT'S
DANGER-
OUS.

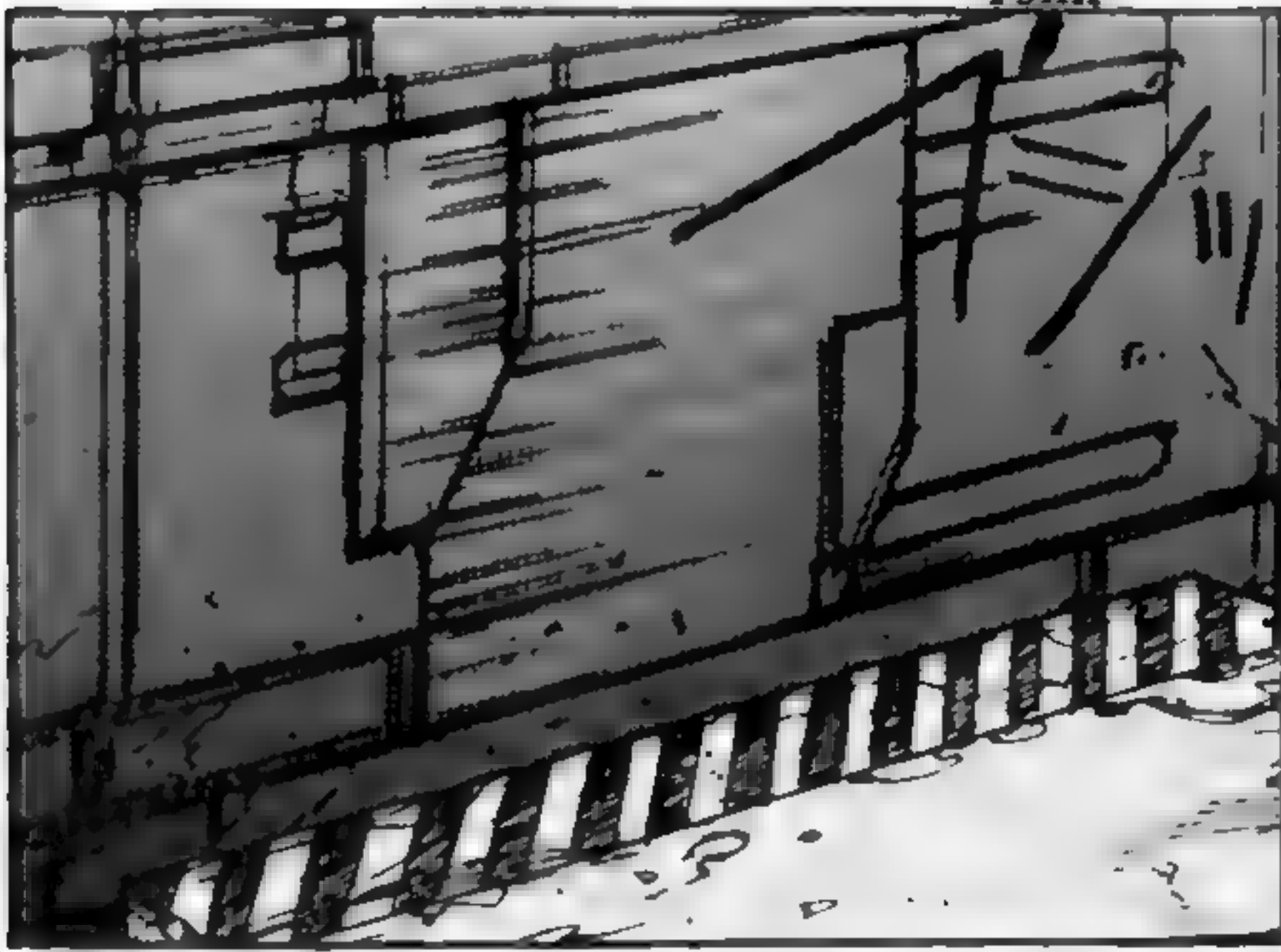




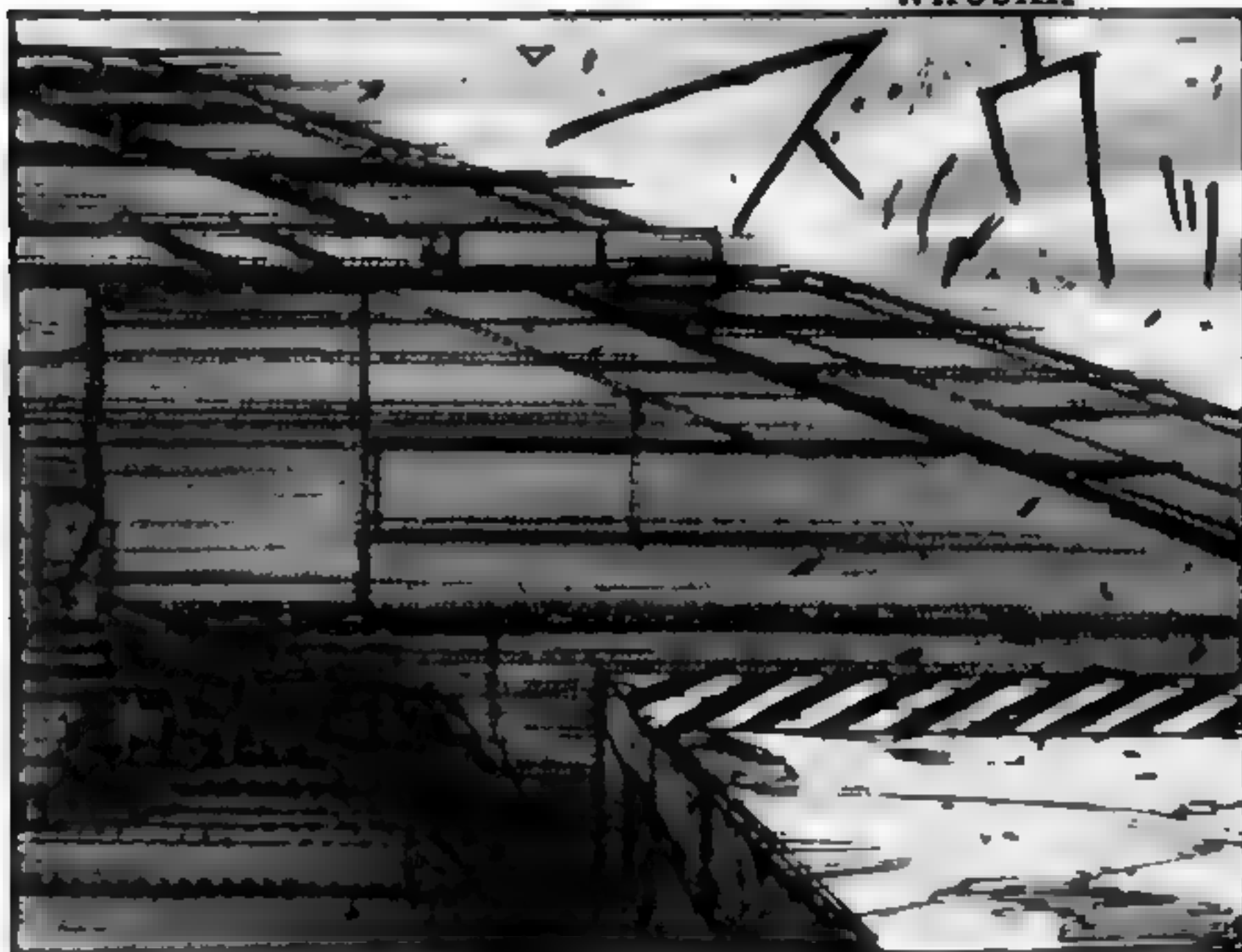
FWUSHH



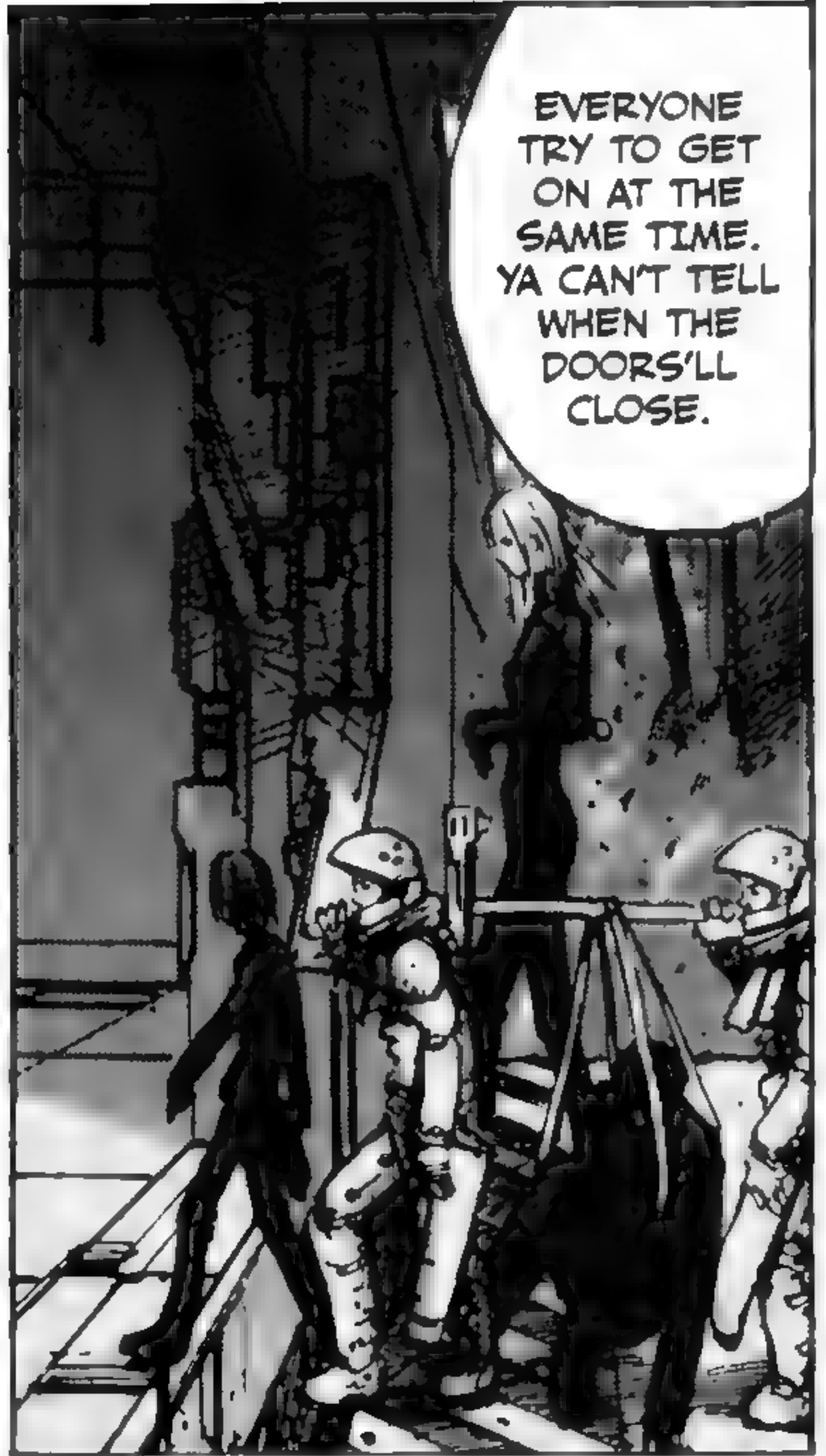
PSHH

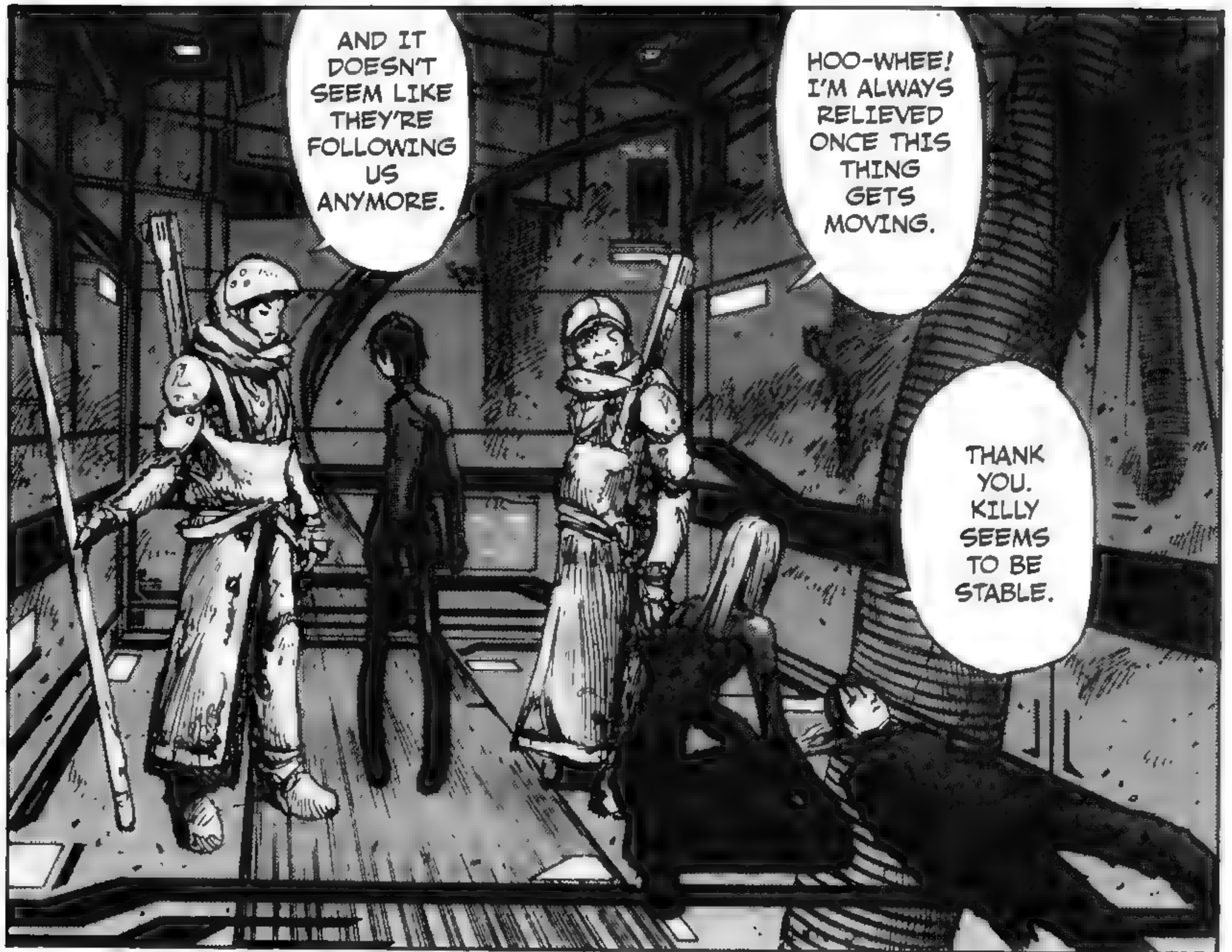


WHUSHH



EVERYONE
TRY TO GET
ON AT THE
SAME TIME.
YA CAN'T TELL
WHEN THE
DOORS'LL
CLOSE.





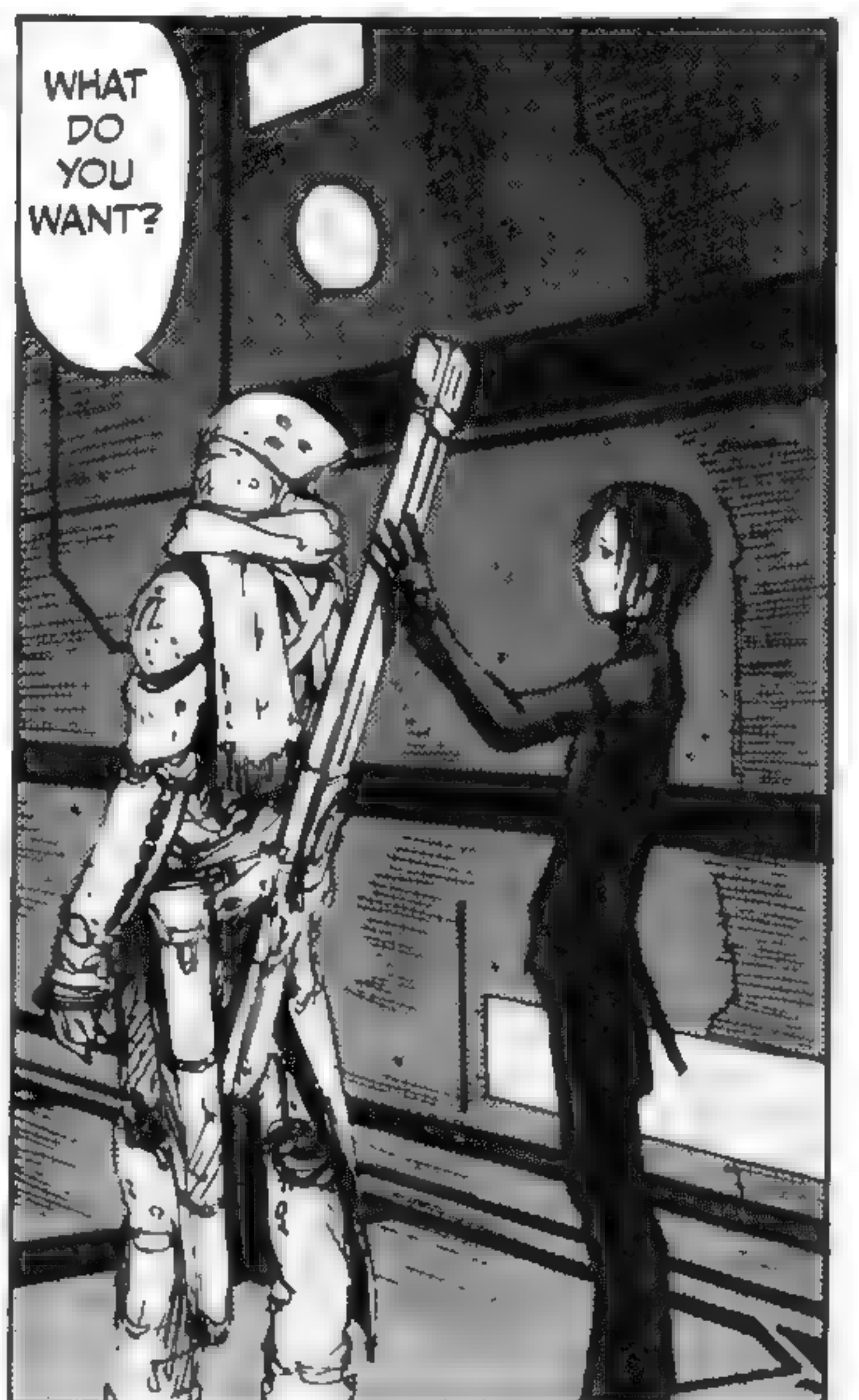
AND IT
DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE
THEY'RE
FOLLOWING
US
ANYMORE.

HOO-WHEE!
I'M ALWAYS
RELIEVED
ONCE THIS
THING
GETS
MOVING.

THANK
YOU.
KILLY
SEEMS
TO BE
STABLE.



THIS GUN
BLASTED A
HOLE IN THOSE
EXTERMINATORS'
EXOSKELETONS.
DO YOU ALL
CARRY THESE?



WHAT
DO
YOU
WANT?



AND
THERE
ISN'T
ANYONE
AROUND
TO MAKE
MORE.

AIN'T IT
SOME-
THING?
THERE
AREN'T
TOO MANY
WORKING
GUNS
ANYMORE.



IT KEPT
YOU SAFE.
THAT'S
WHAT
MATTERS.

I DIDN'T
REALIZE
IT WAS SO
VALUABLE.

NO NO,
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT!



AH,
I SEE...
SO THINGS
ARE PRETTY
BAD DOWN
THERE.

I'VE NEVER
SEEN THAT
MANY SAFE-
GUARDS
BEFORE.

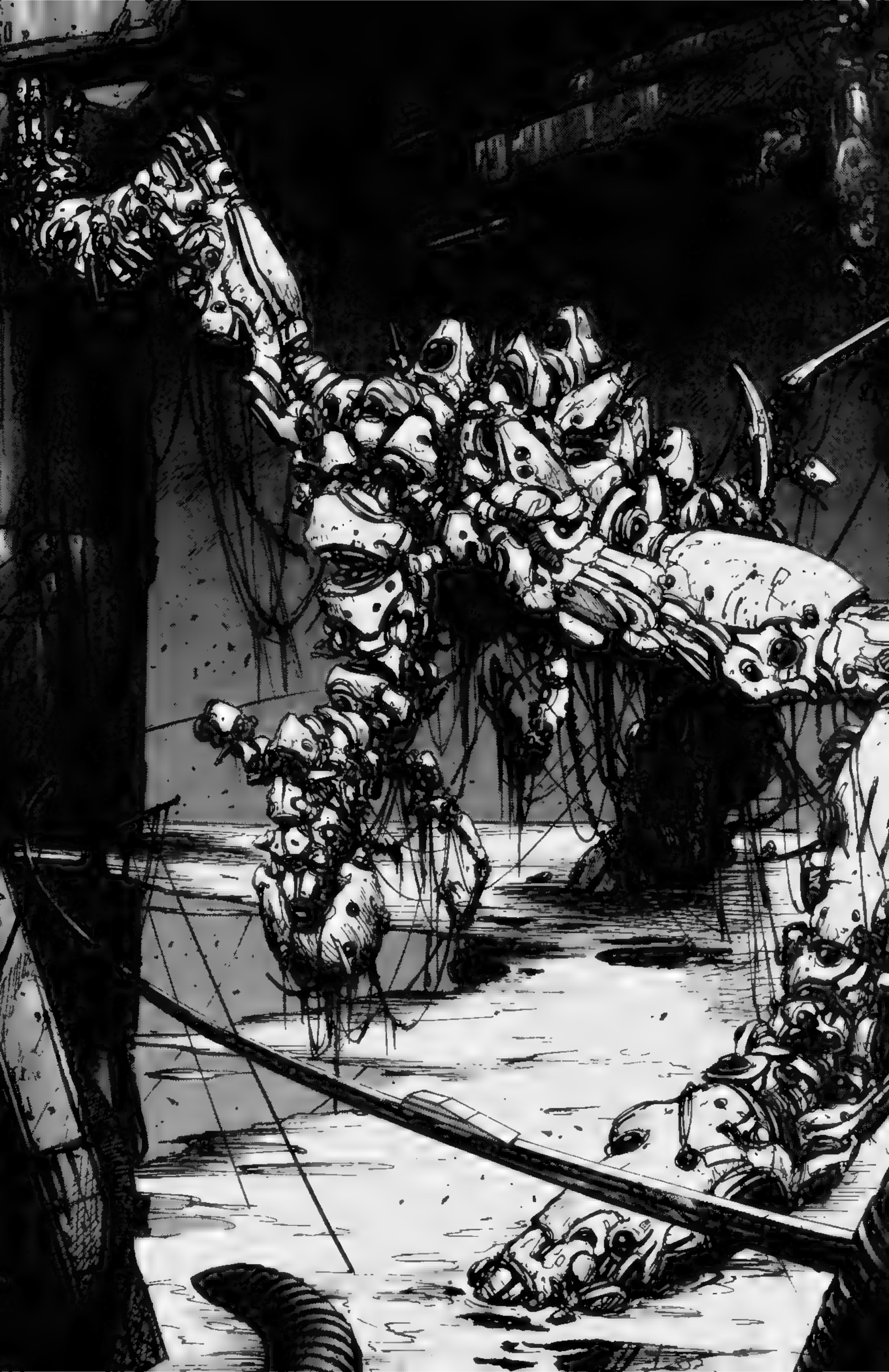
D A M N . . .

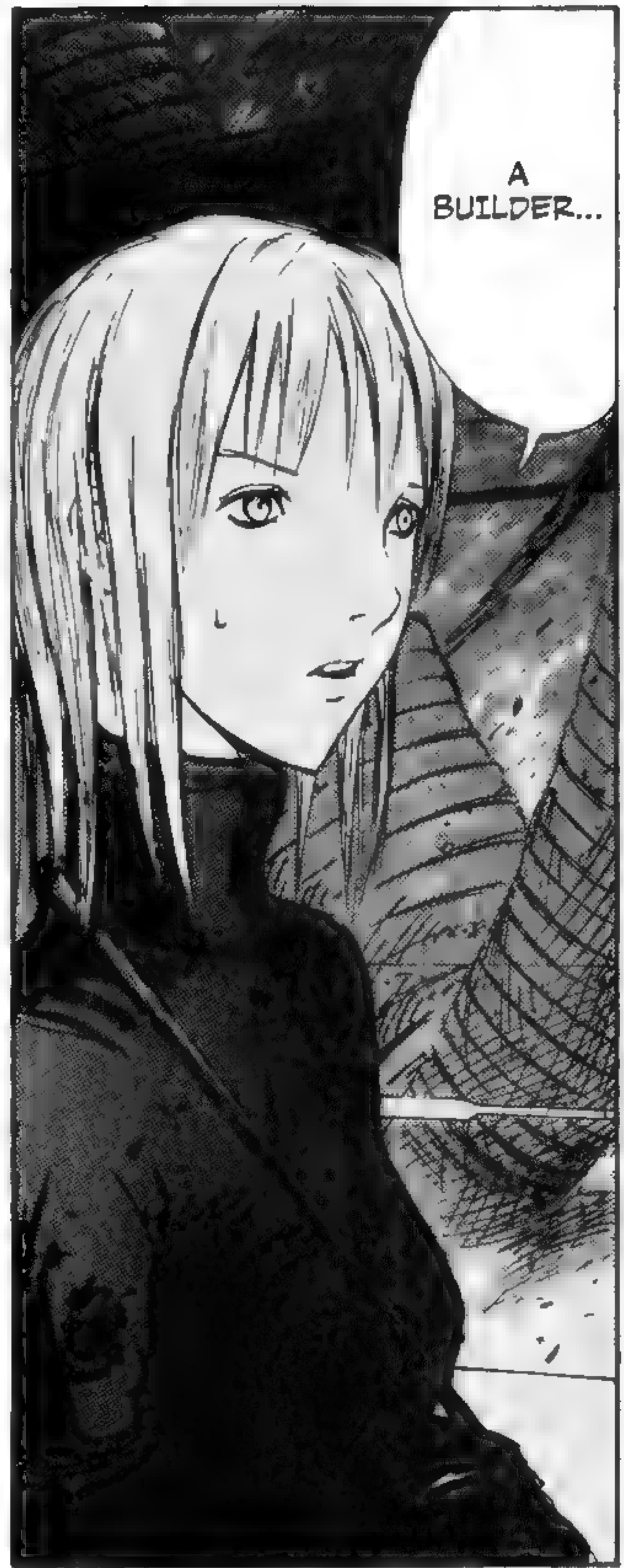


I GUESS IT
WAS TOO
MUCH TO
HOPE THEY'D
LEFT US
ALONE FOR
GOOD.

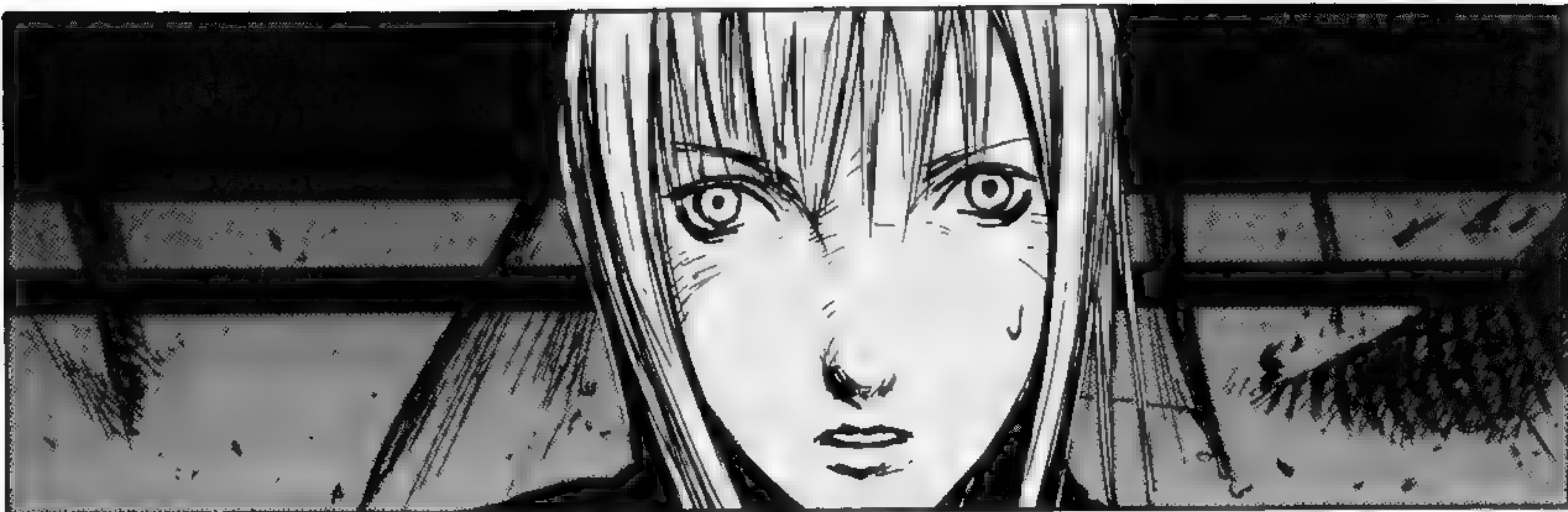
THEY'D
BEEN
KEEPING
PRETTY
QUIET
'ROUND
THESE
PARTS,
LATELY.



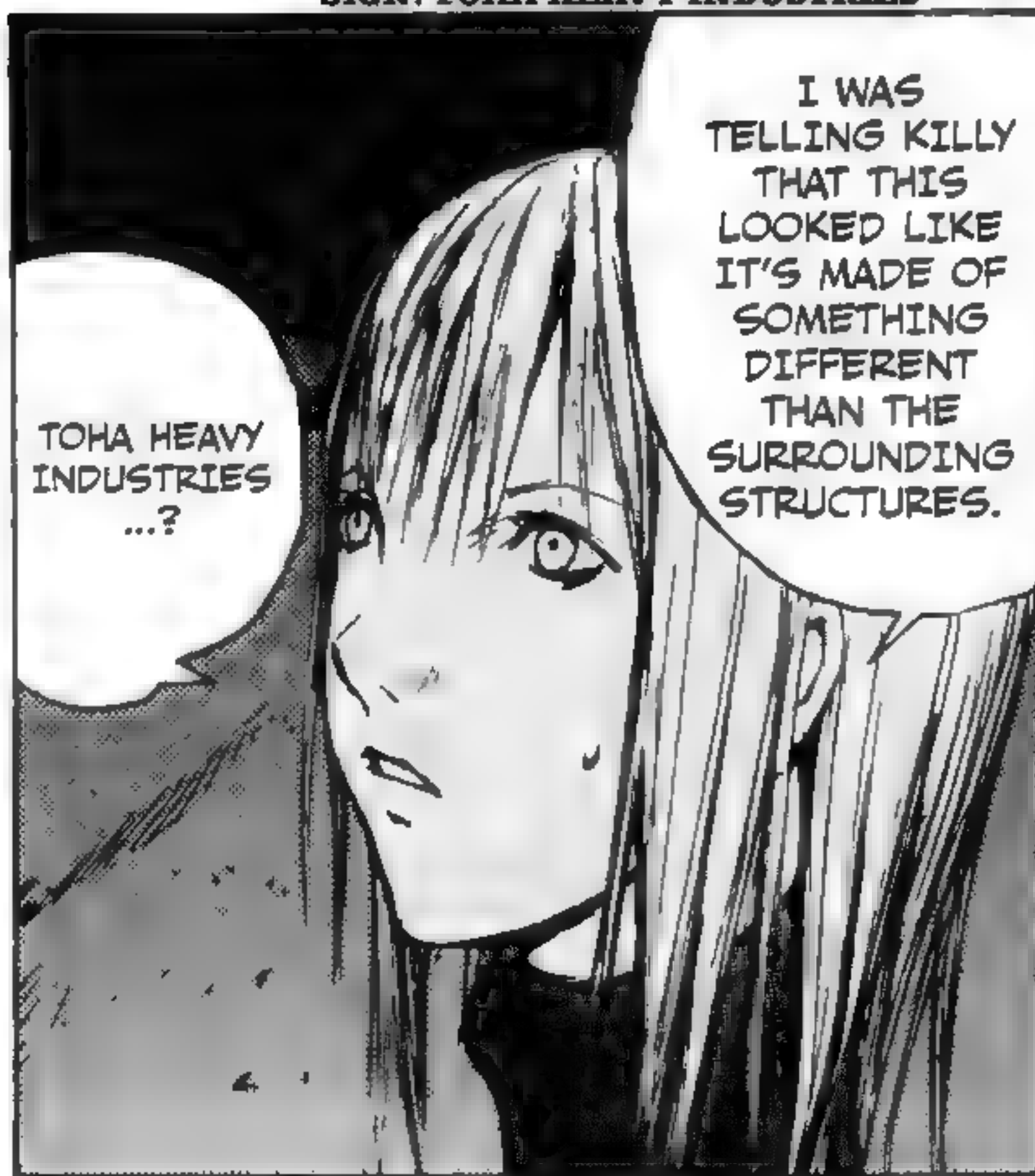


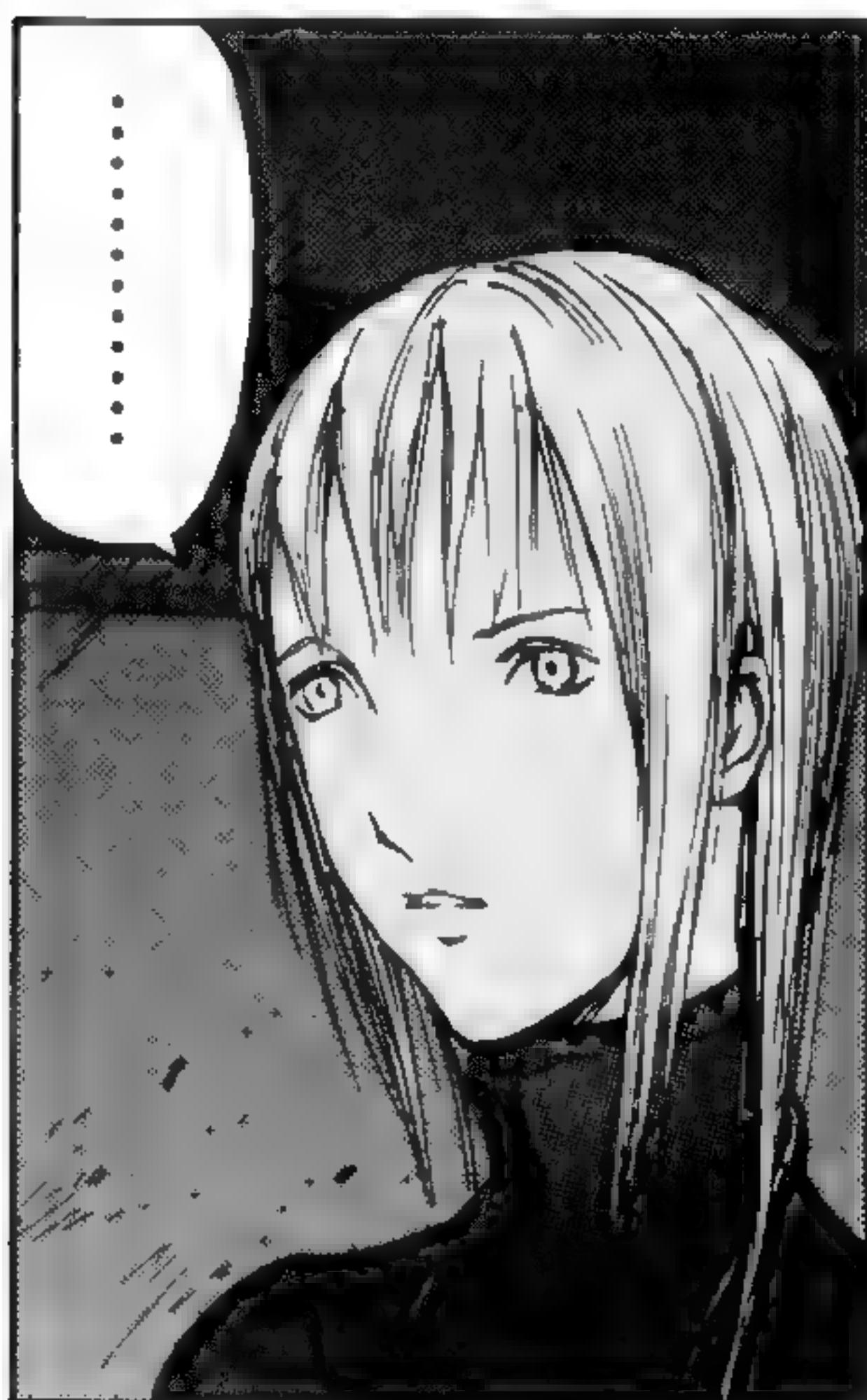
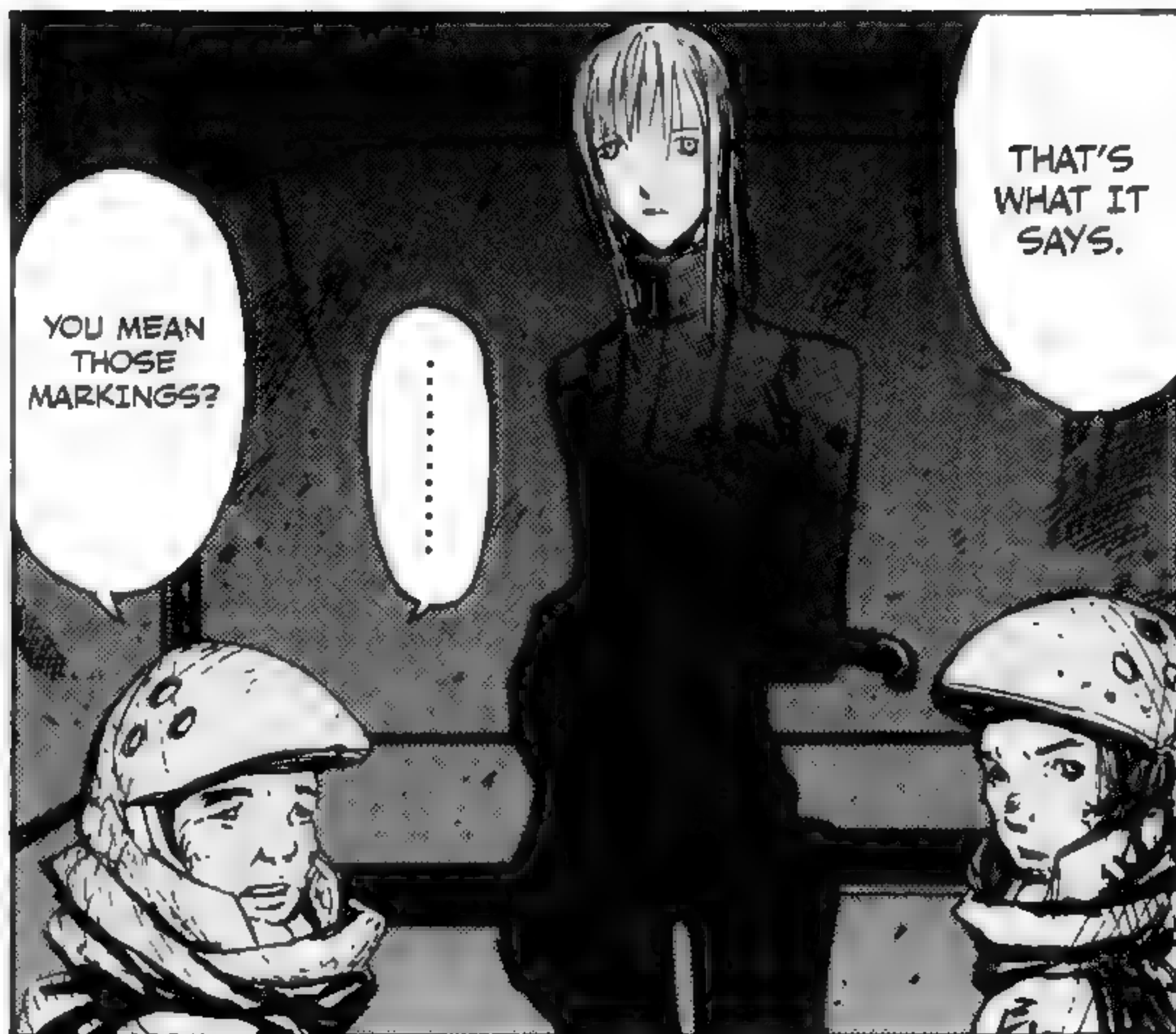






SIGN: TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES









OUR
ANCESTORS
WERE CALLED
PLANTERS.
THEY USED TO
LIVE INSIDE
TOHA HEAVY
INDUSTRIES,
A LONG TIME
AGO.



NOBODY
REMEMBERS
WHAT THEY
USED TO
DO.



PLANTERS?
DID THEY
PLANT
SOME KIND
OF CROP?

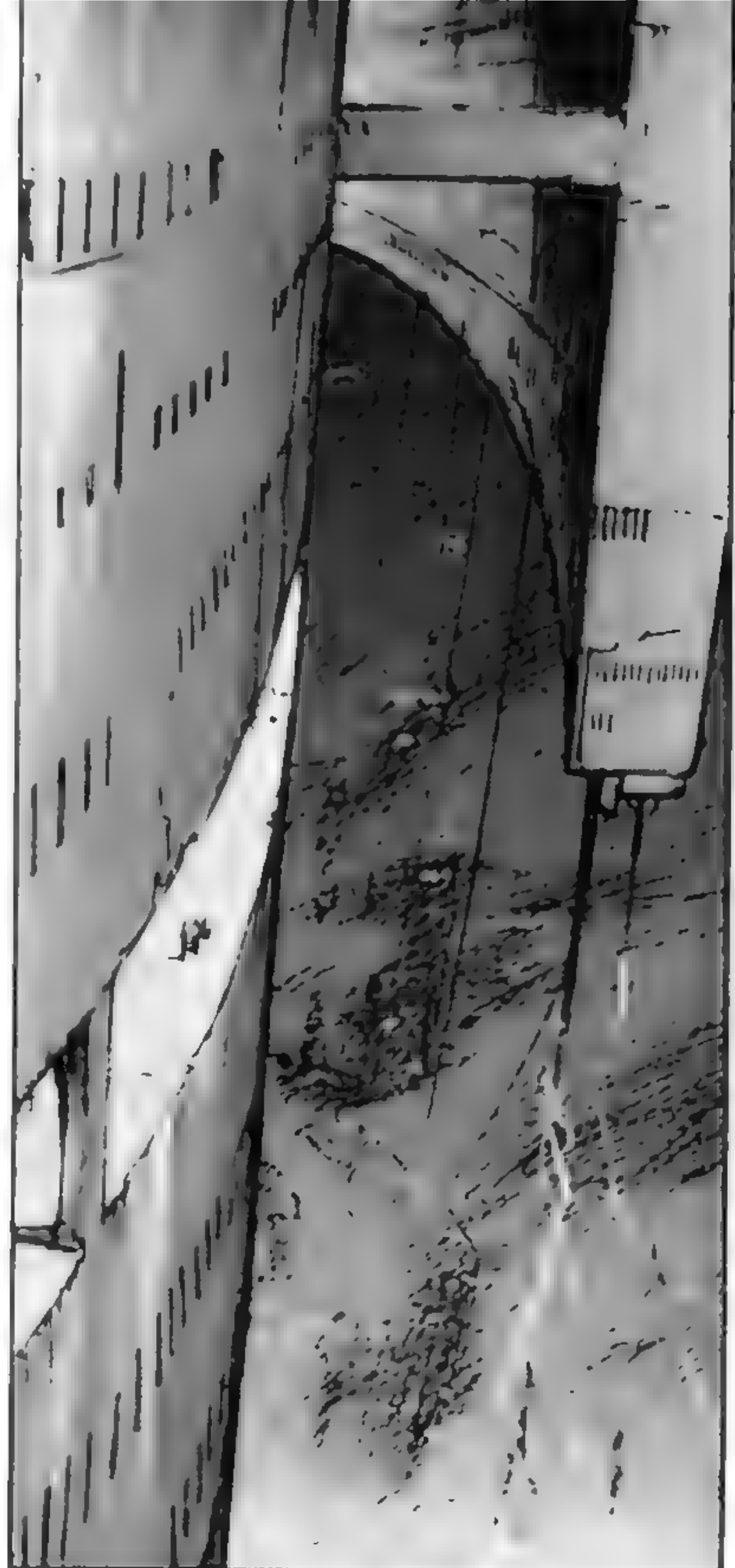


JUST A FEW
GENERATIONS
BACK, WE
RETURNED.

...WE
ENDED UP
SETTLING
ALL AROUND
THE
OUTSIDE,
IN THE OLD
LIVING
QUARTERS.

AND SINCE
WE COULDN'T
FIGURE OUT
HOW TO GET
BACK INSIDE
THE THING...

CLUNK CLUNK







WHO ARE
THESE
PEOPLE?

WE
RAN INTO
SOME
SAFE-
GUARDS!

WHAT?!



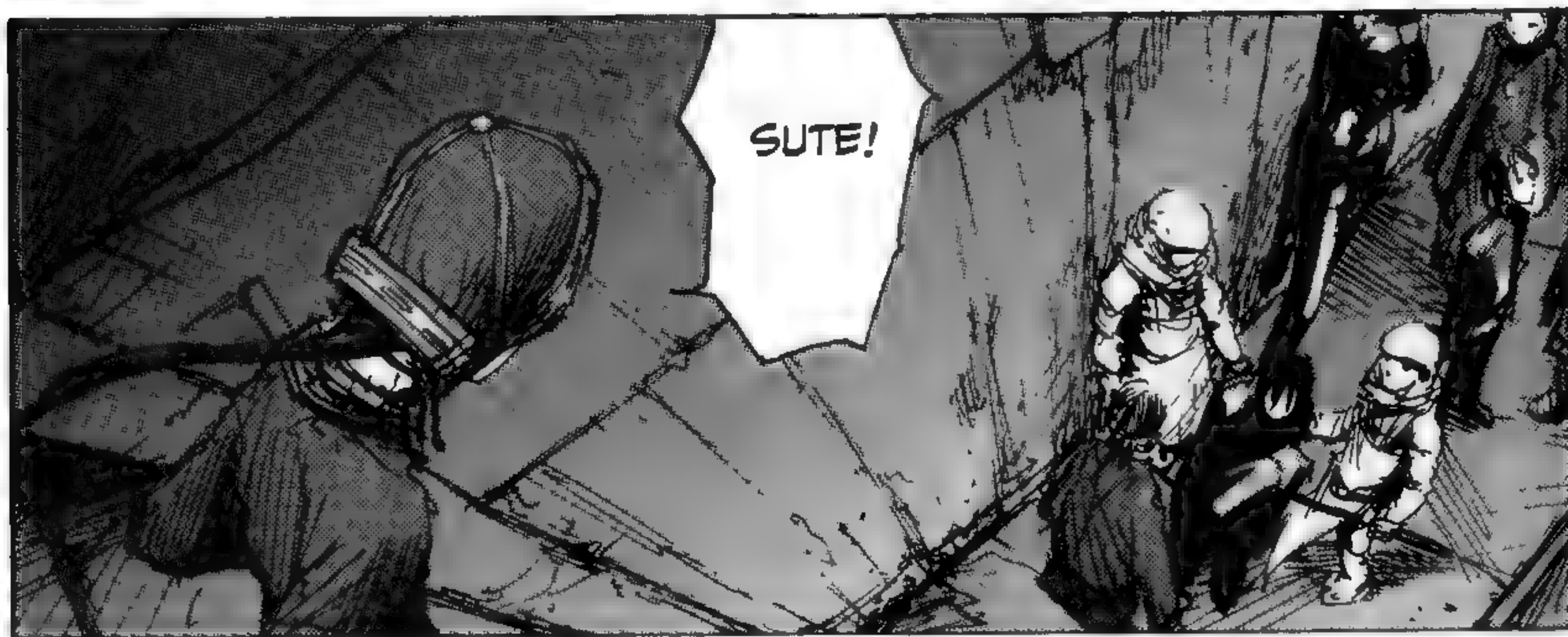
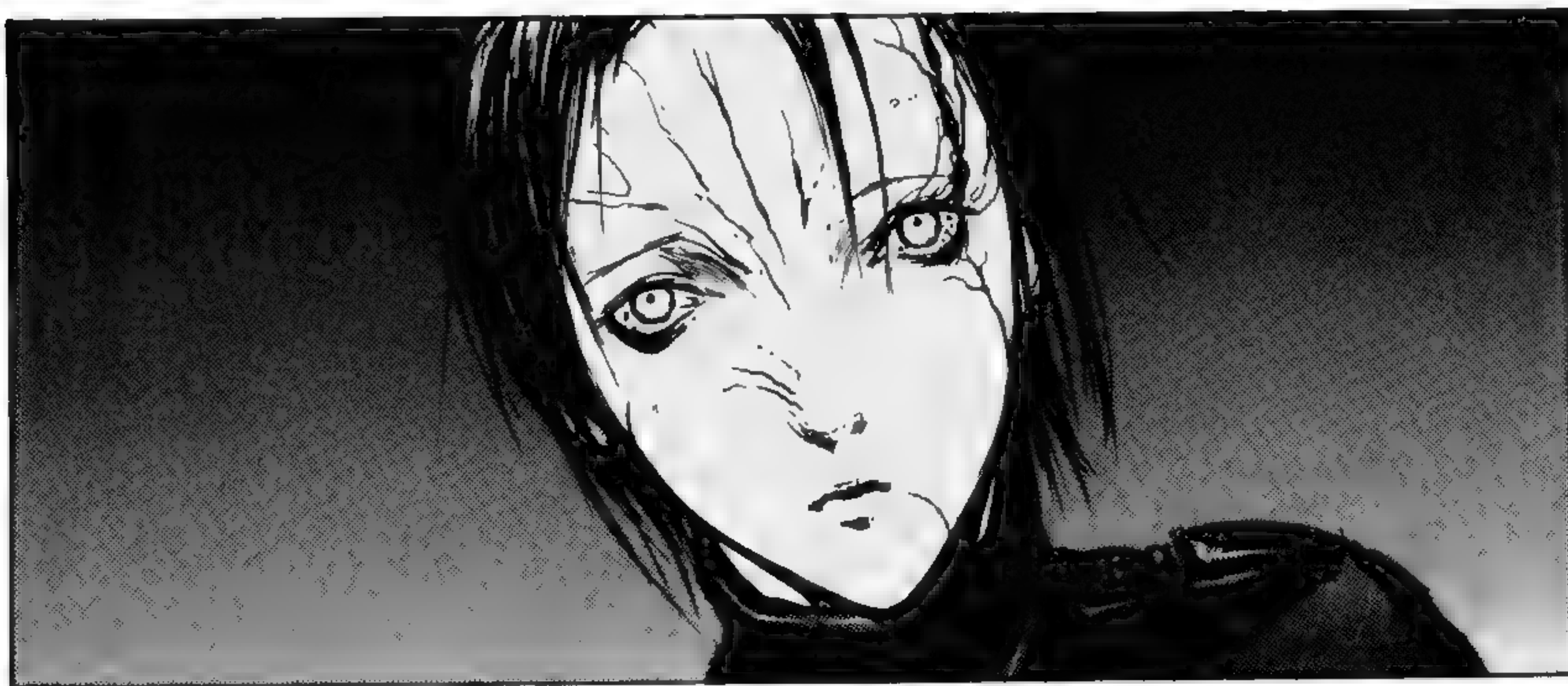
WHAT
A TALL
GIRL!

THAT MUST
HAVE BEEN
TERRIBLE.
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?



NO,
HE'S
NOT.

SUTEZO,
THIS GUY
AIN'T
DEAD, IS
HE?





ZURU!
WOULD
YOU COME
TAKE A
LOOK
AT THIS
GUY?

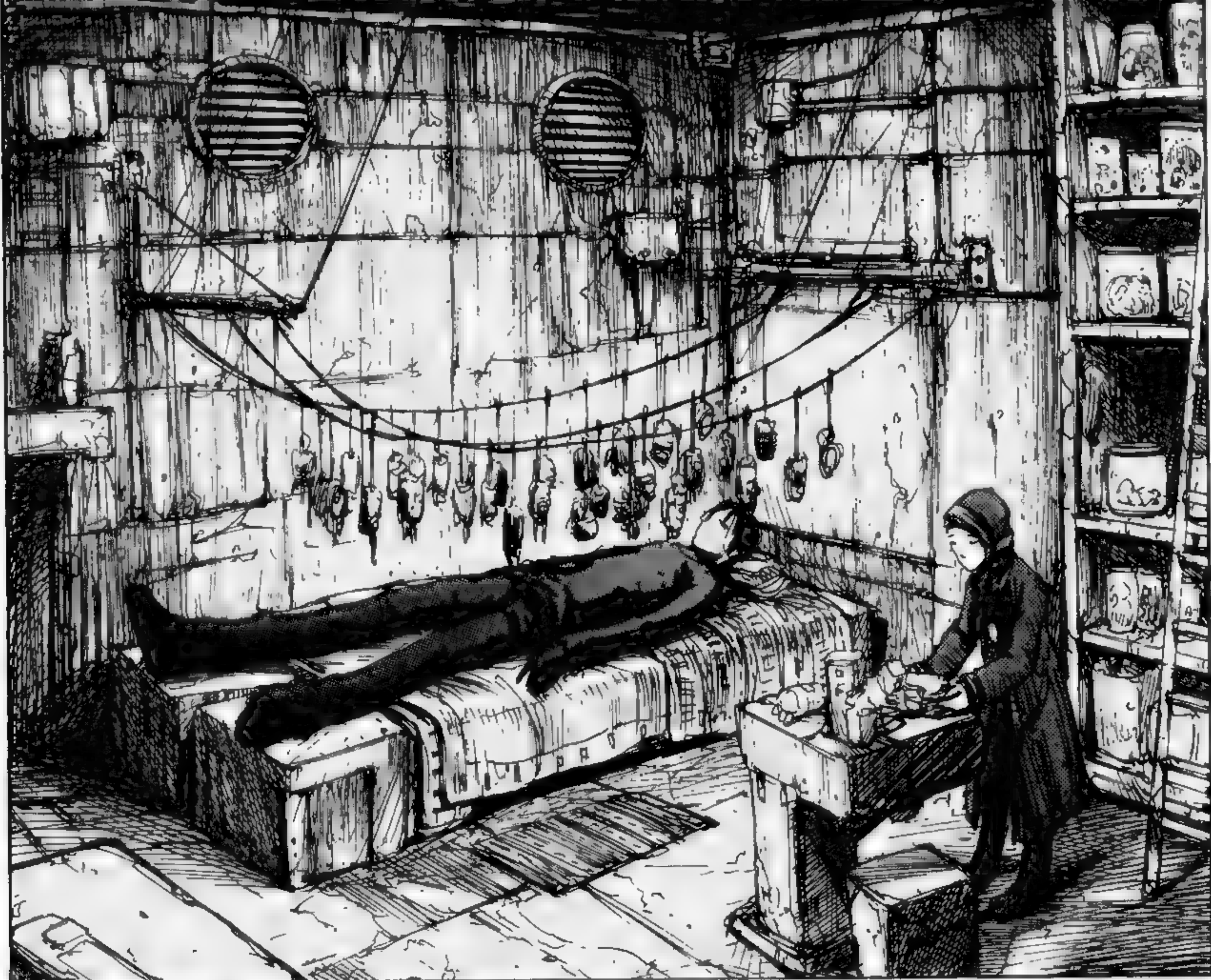


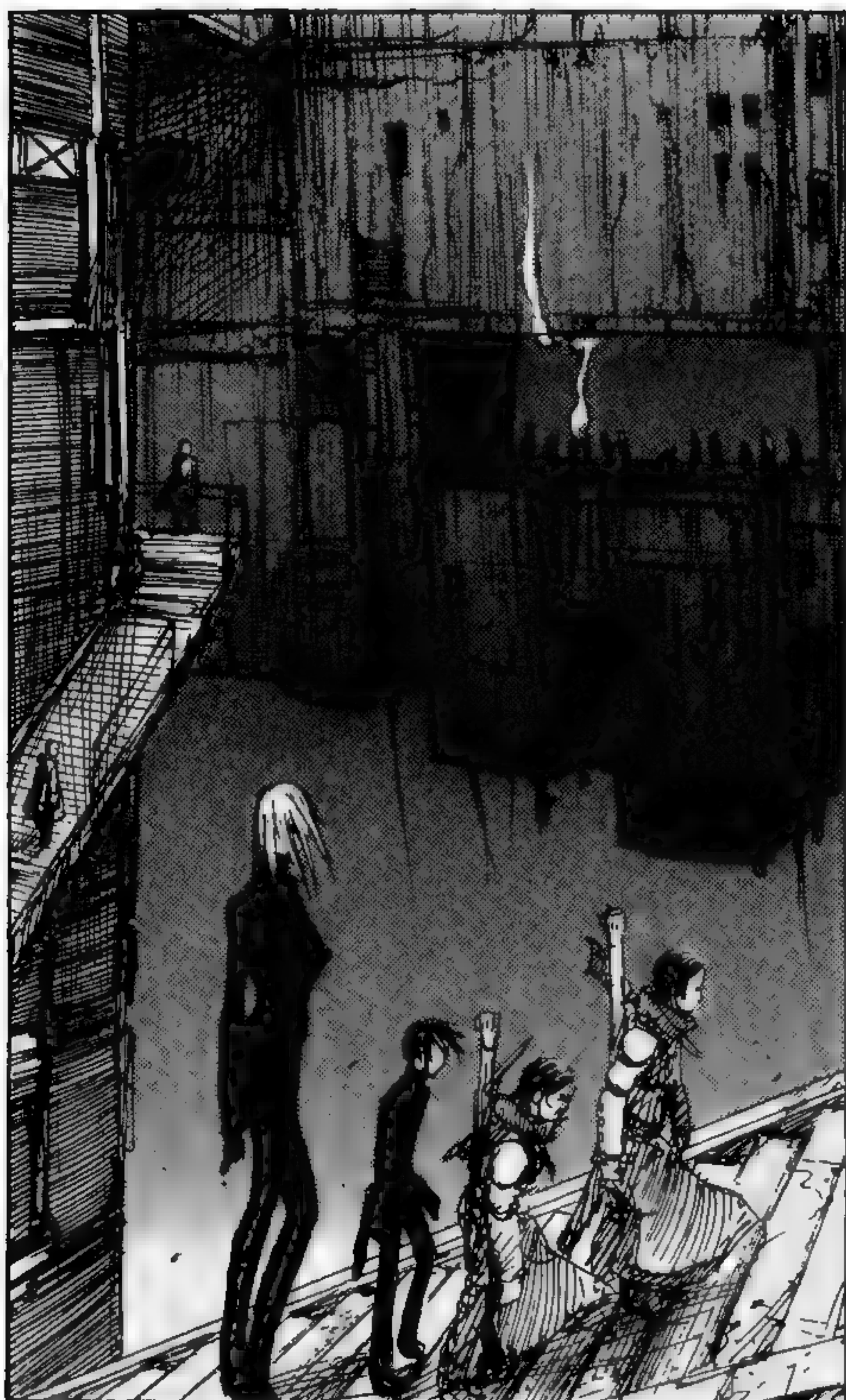
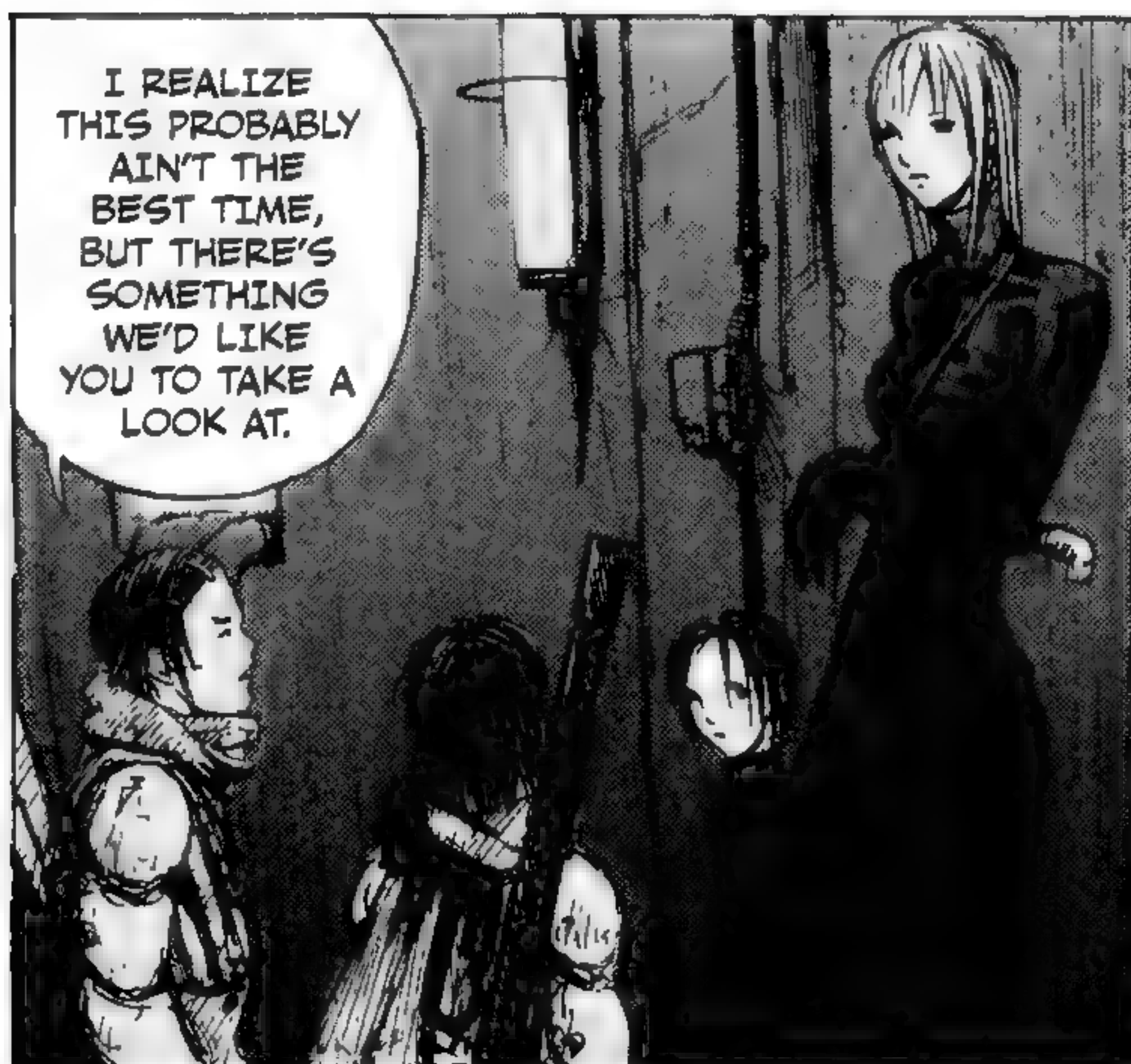
SOME OF
THE SAFE-
GUARD'S
BLOOD GOT
SPLATTERED
A LITTLE.
IT'S
NOTHING!

WHAT IS
THIS?
BLOOD?



PSHHH

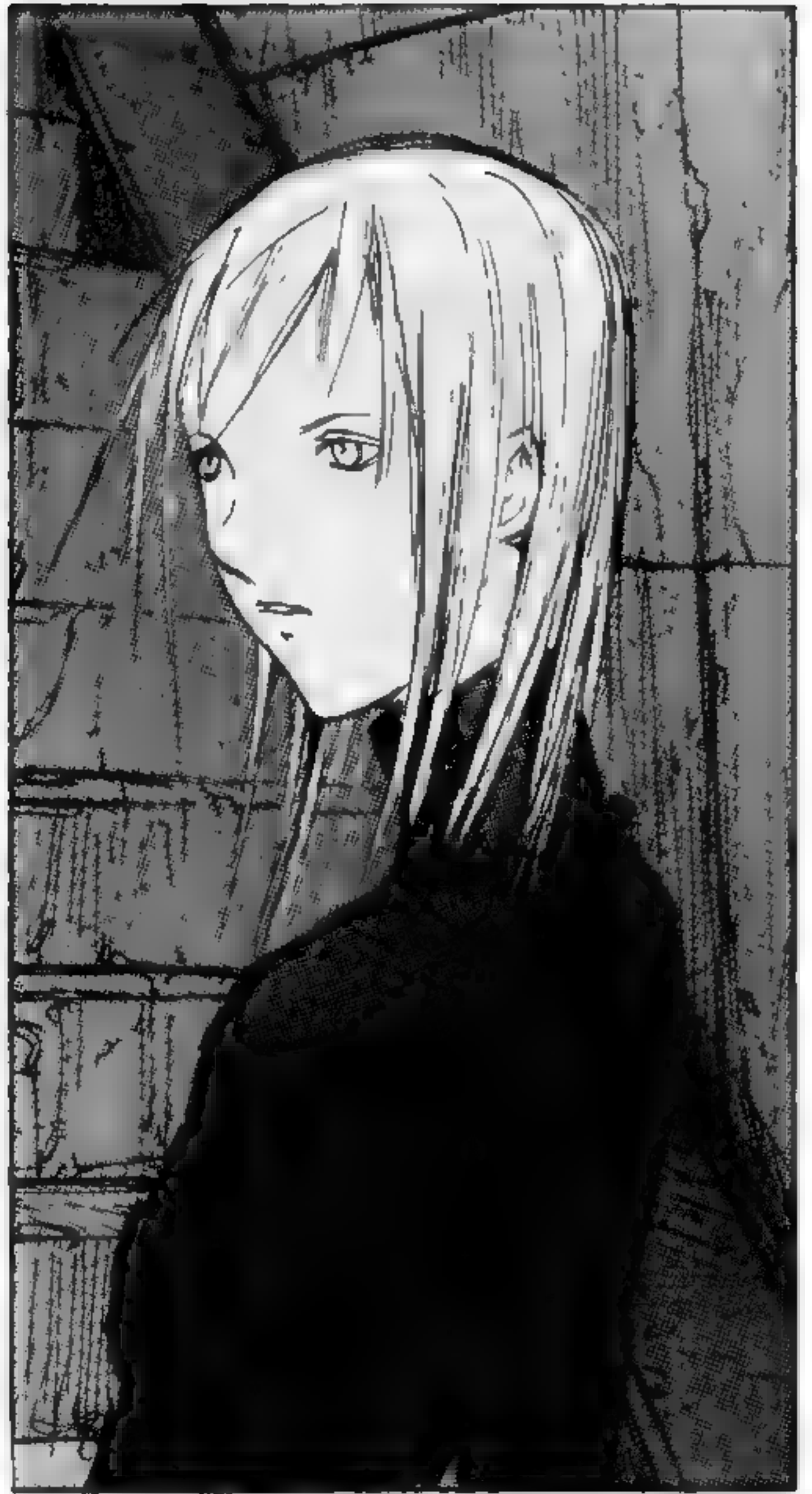






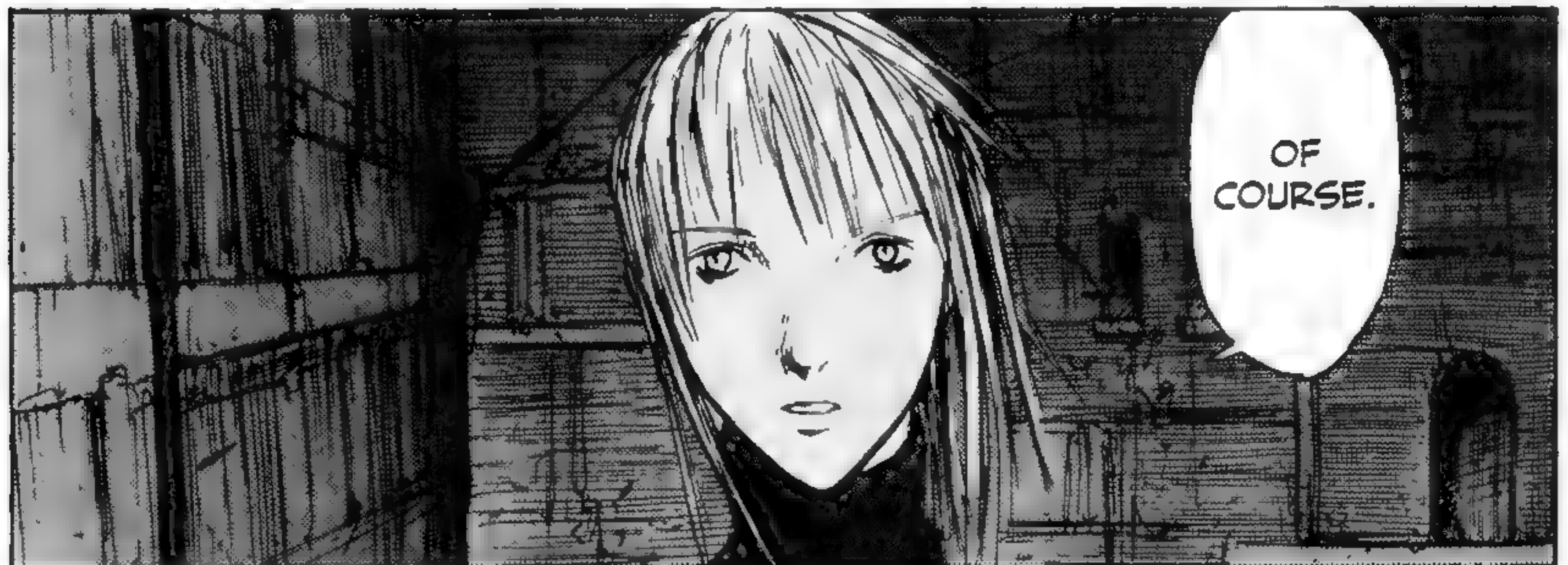
...IS THERE
ANYONE
HERE WHO
HAS NET
TERMINAL
GENES?

IF YOU
DON'T
MIND ME
ASKING...



NO
HUMANS'VE
HAD THOSE
FOR AGES.

A'COURSE
NOT.



OF
COURSE.



...BUT
WE DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO OPEN
IT.

WE THINK
IT'S THE
ENTRANCE TO
TOHA HEAVY
INDUSTRIES...

IT HASN'T
BEEN
TOUCHED
IN
DECADES.

WHAT
IS
IT...?





CAN YOU
FIGURE
ANYTHIN' OUT
FROM THOSE
LETTERS?

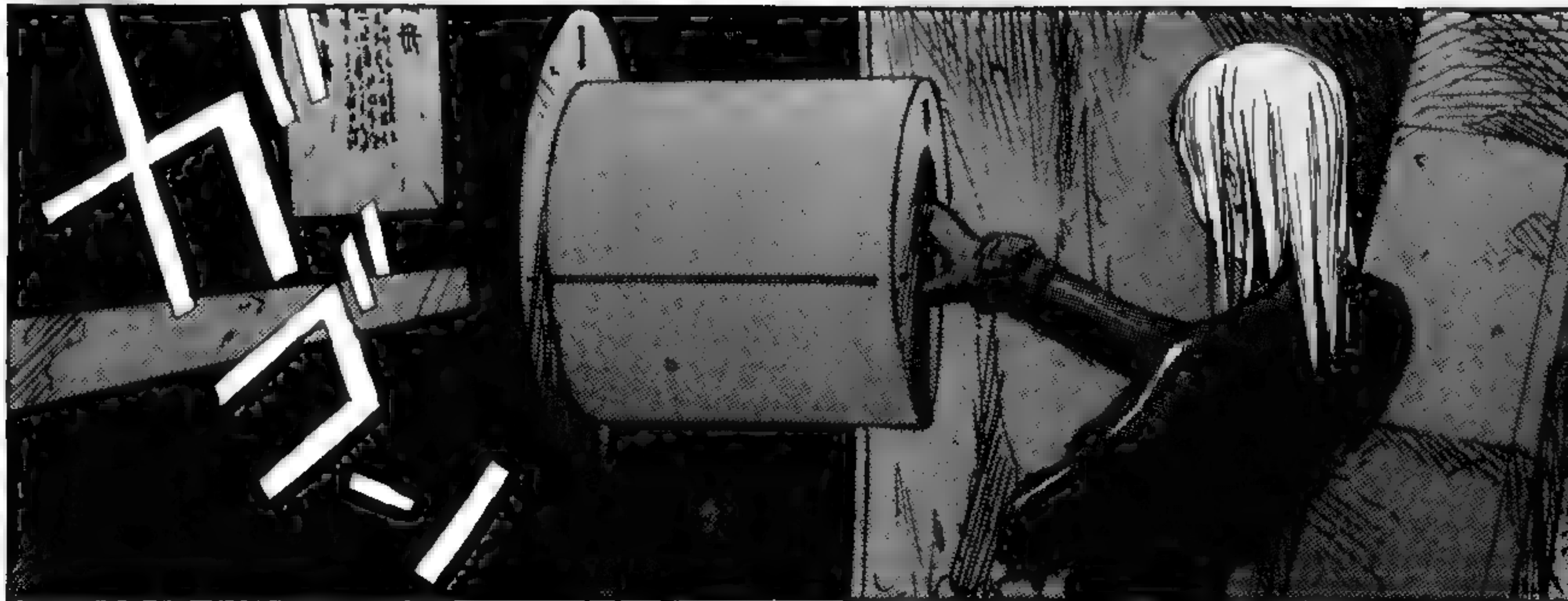


BREAK THE
PROTECTIVE
PLATE IN THE
CENTER, THEN
REACH INSIDE
AND PULL OUT
THE CONTROL
ROD...

IN THE CASE OF
AN EMERGENCY,
THIS ENTRY
SHAFT CAN
BE OPERATED
MANUALLY.



CLUNK



WHUMM



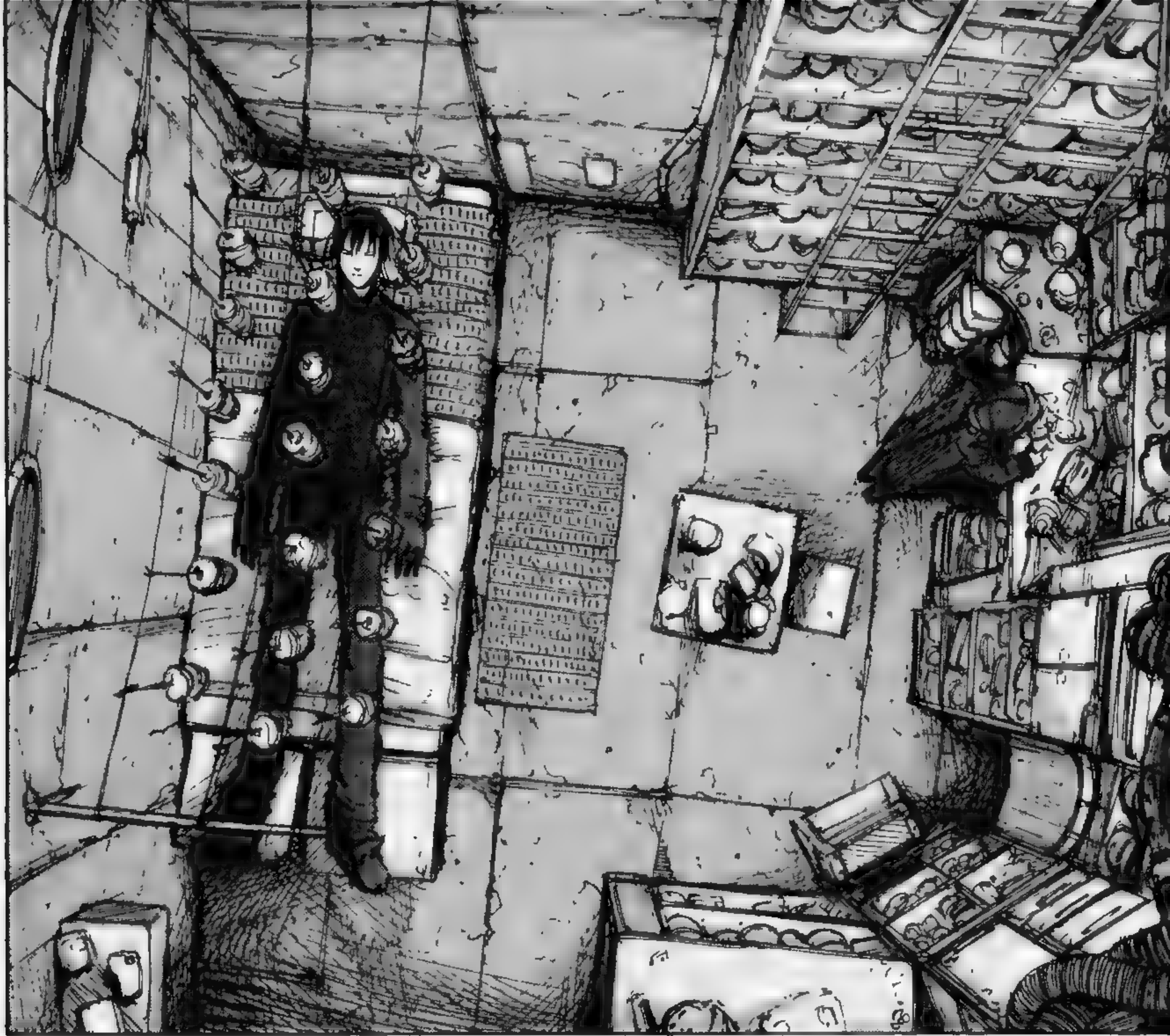


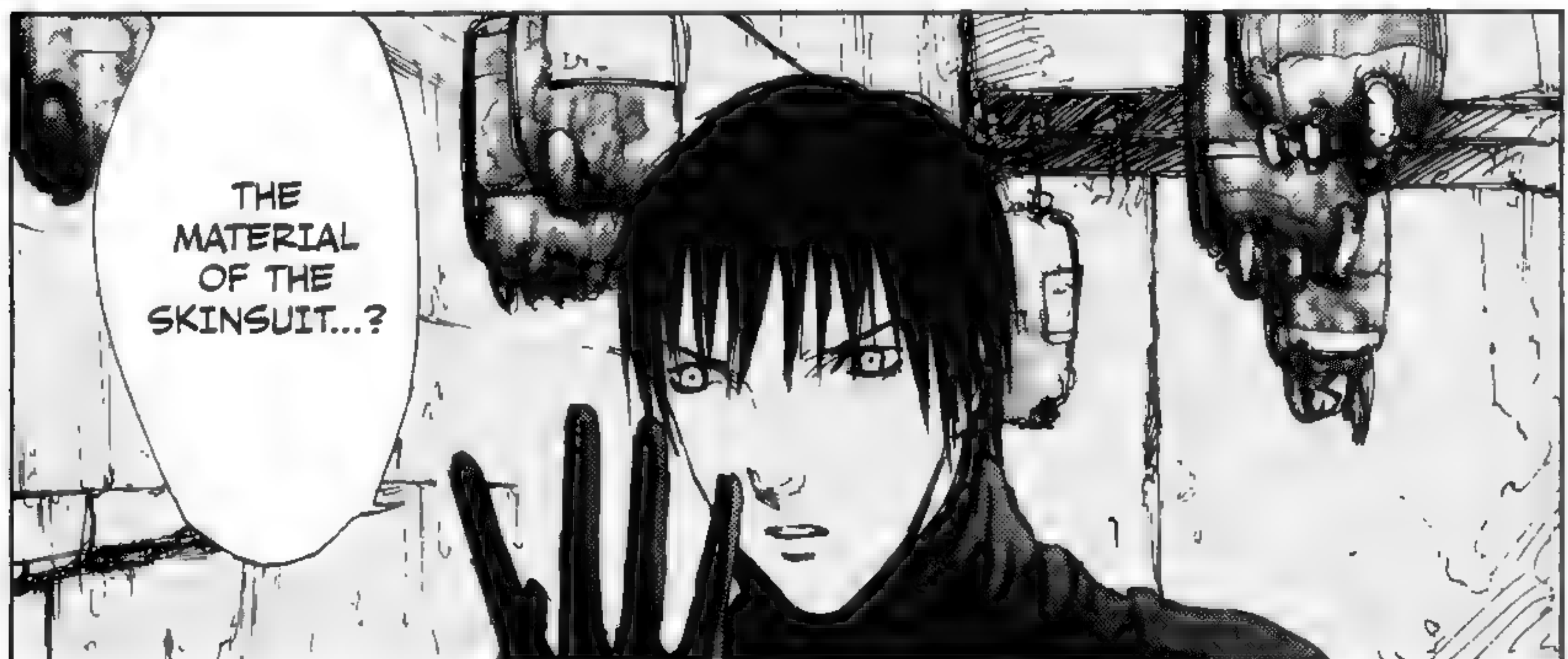
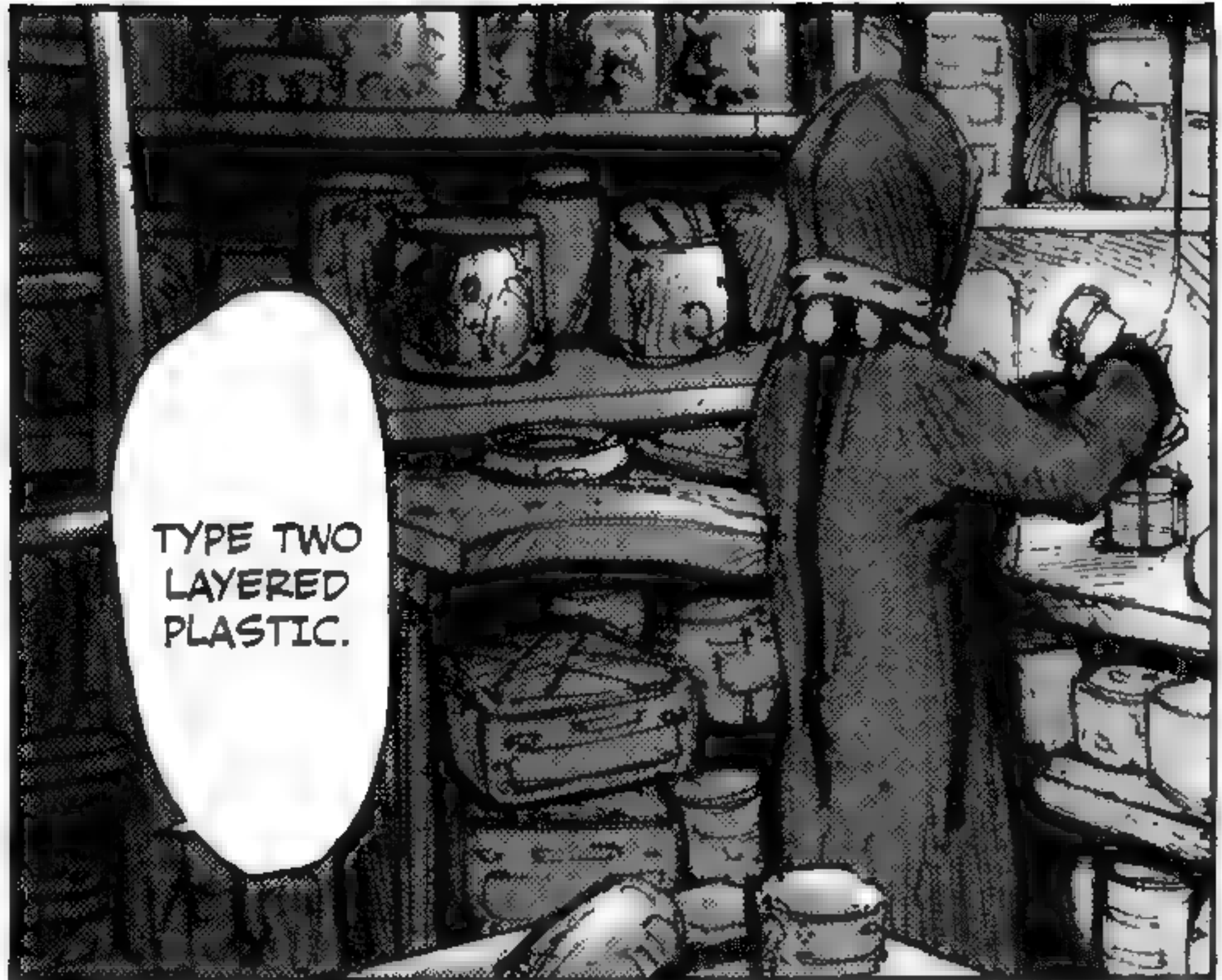
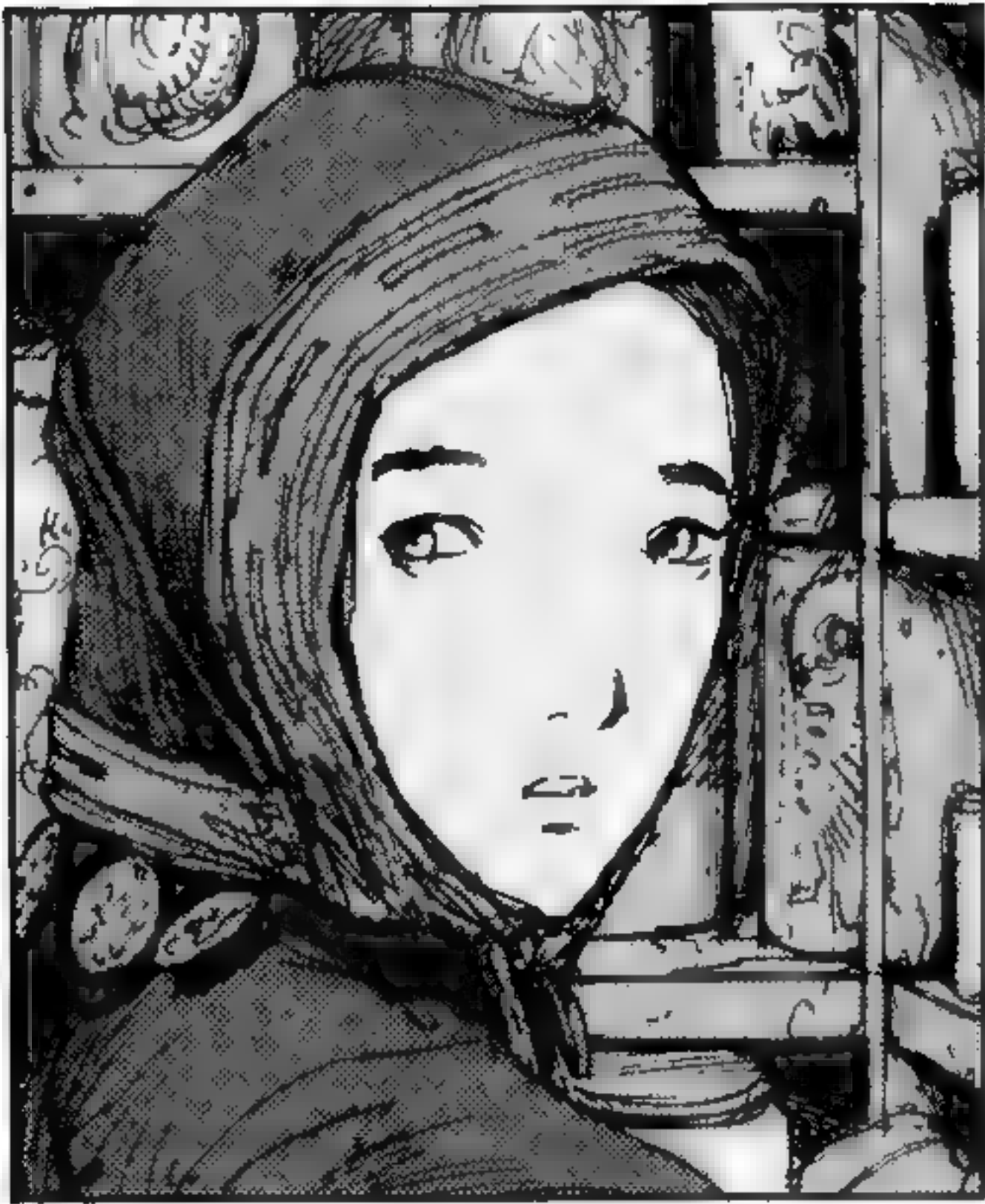
SHHHA

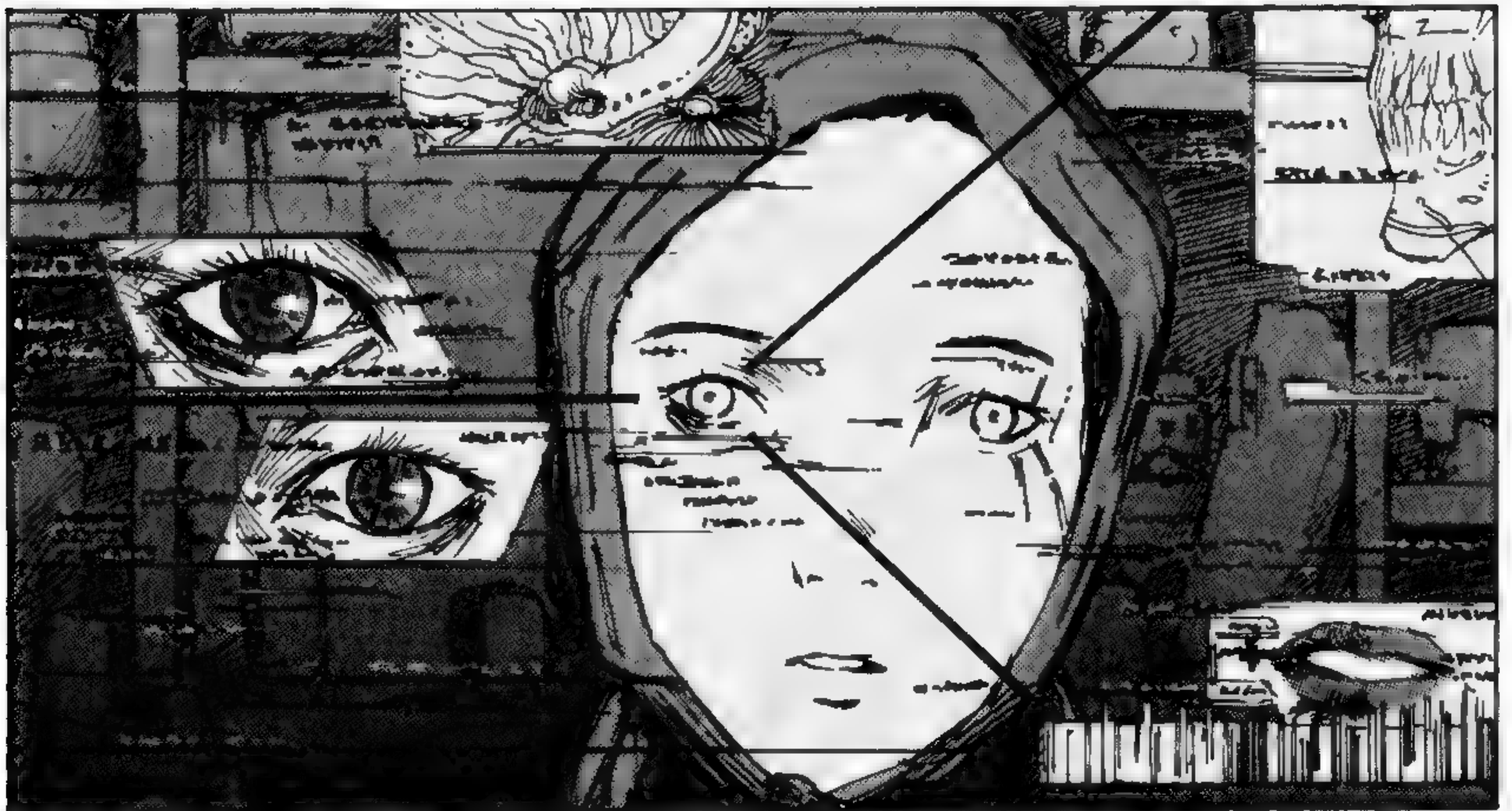


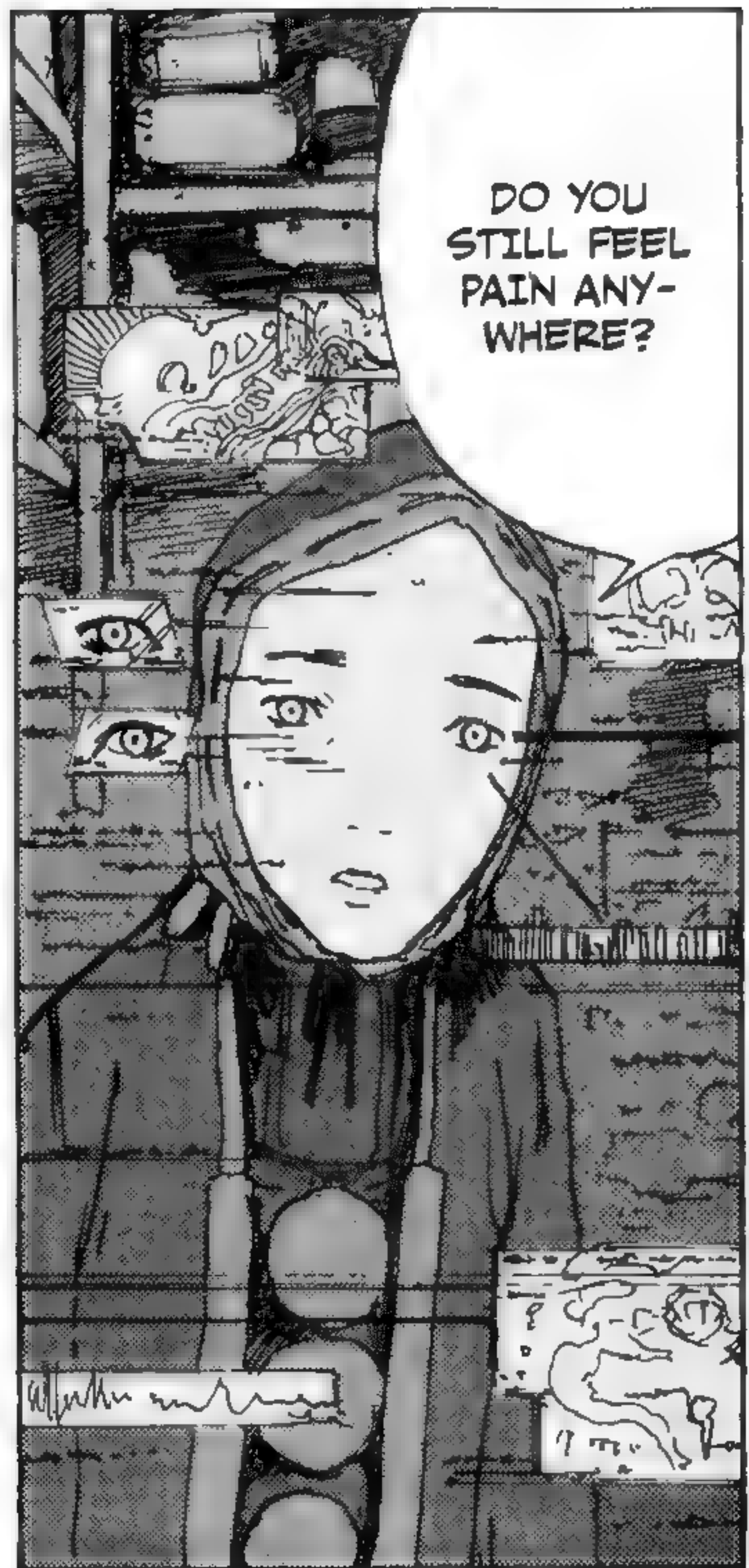
LOG.14@END



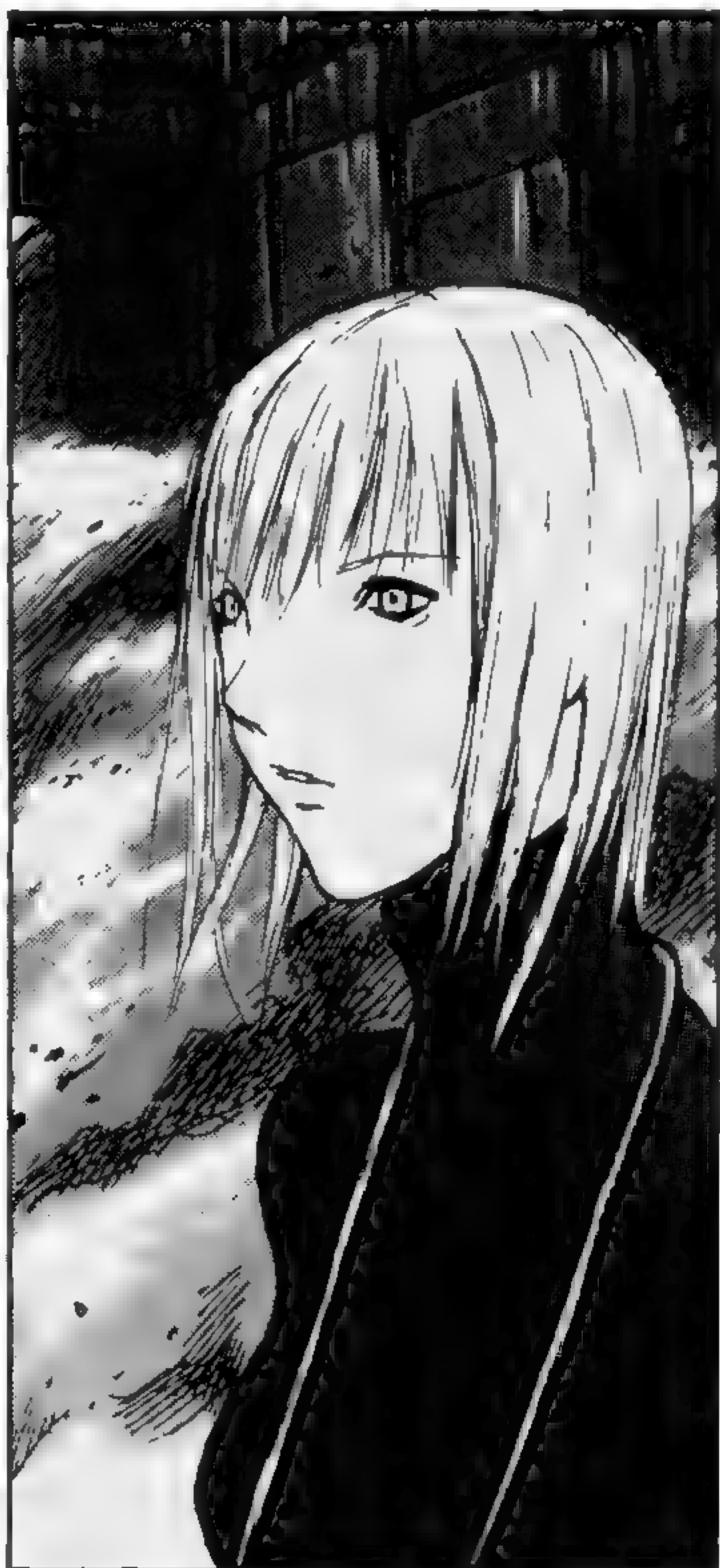
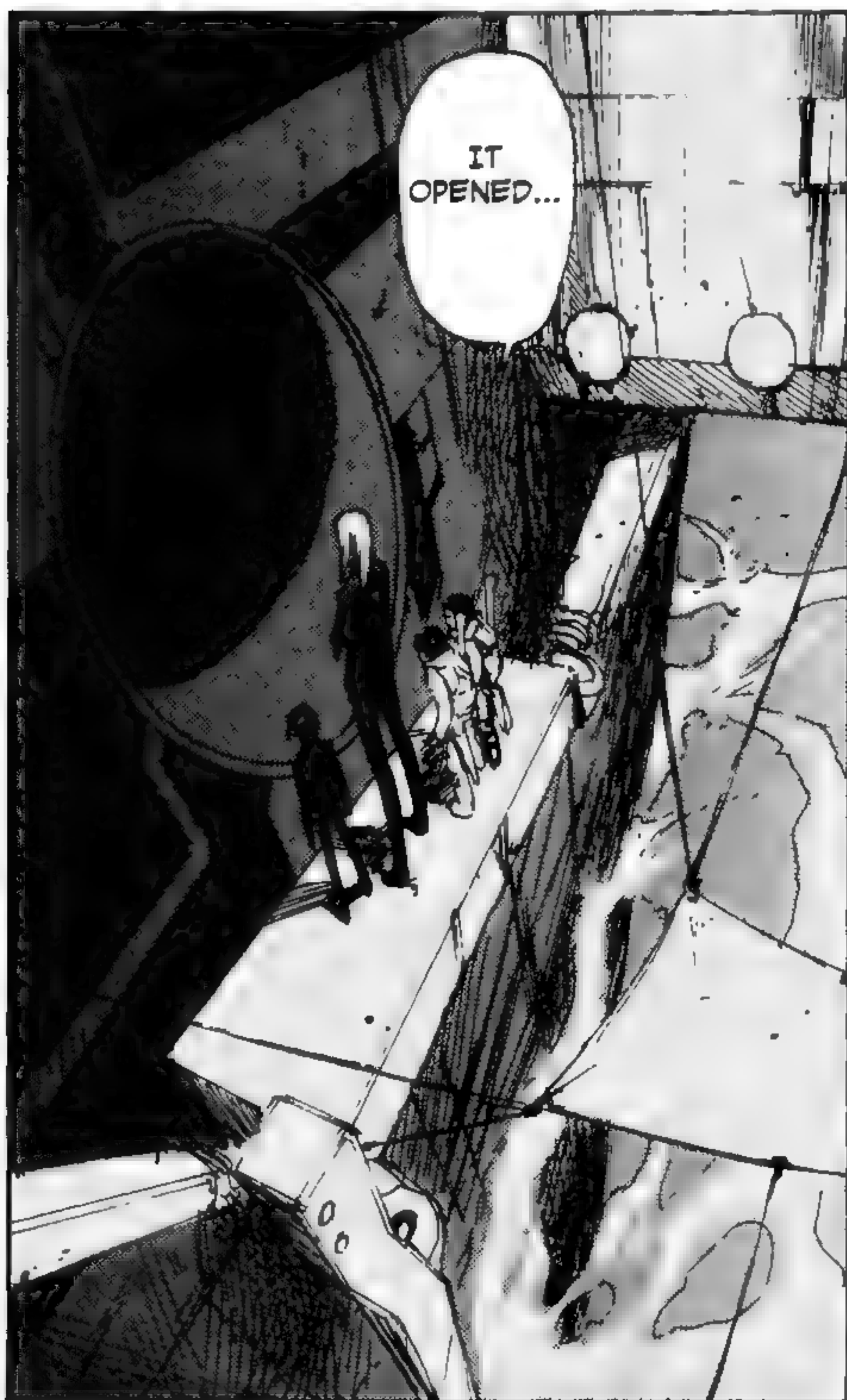
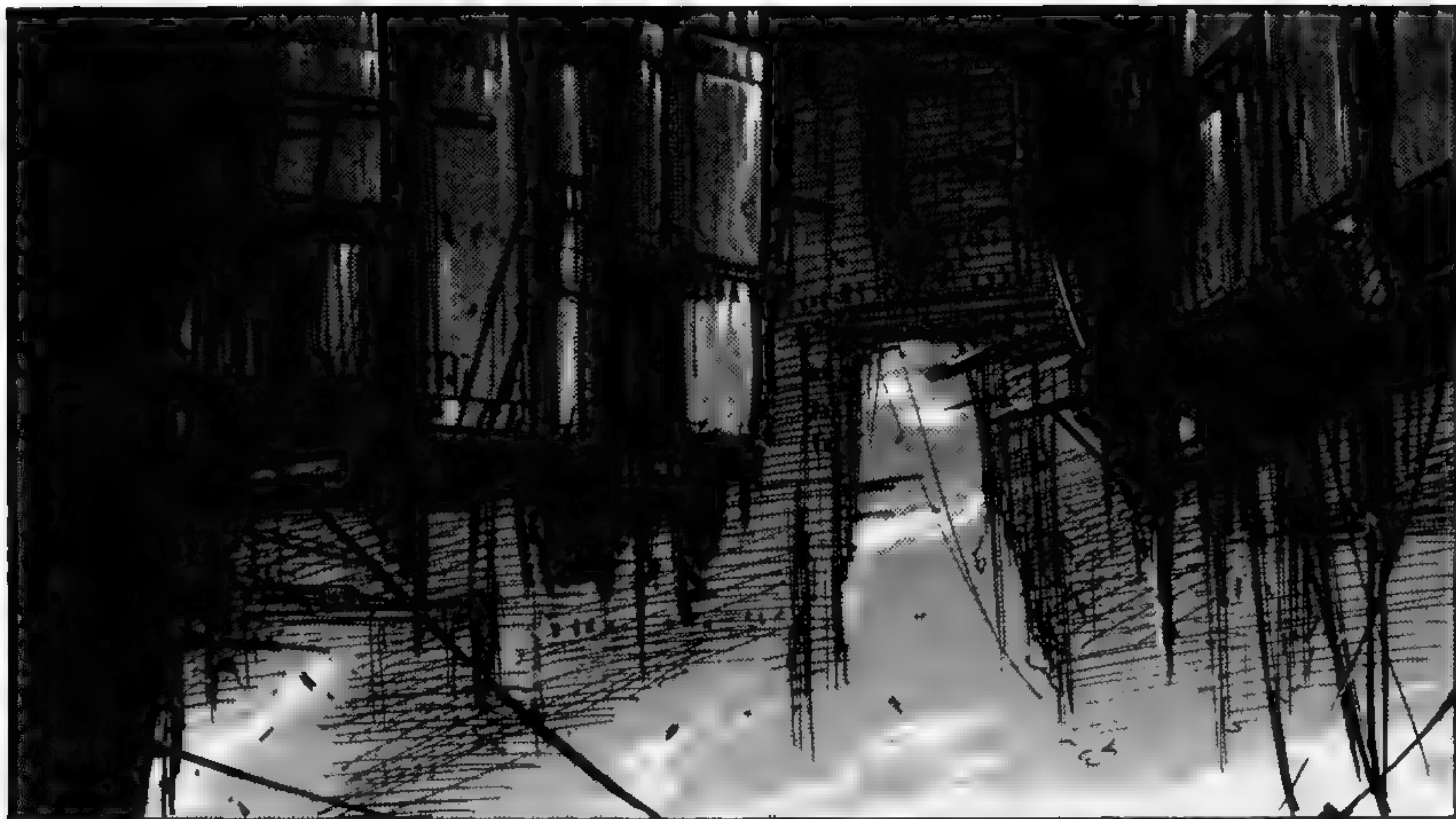


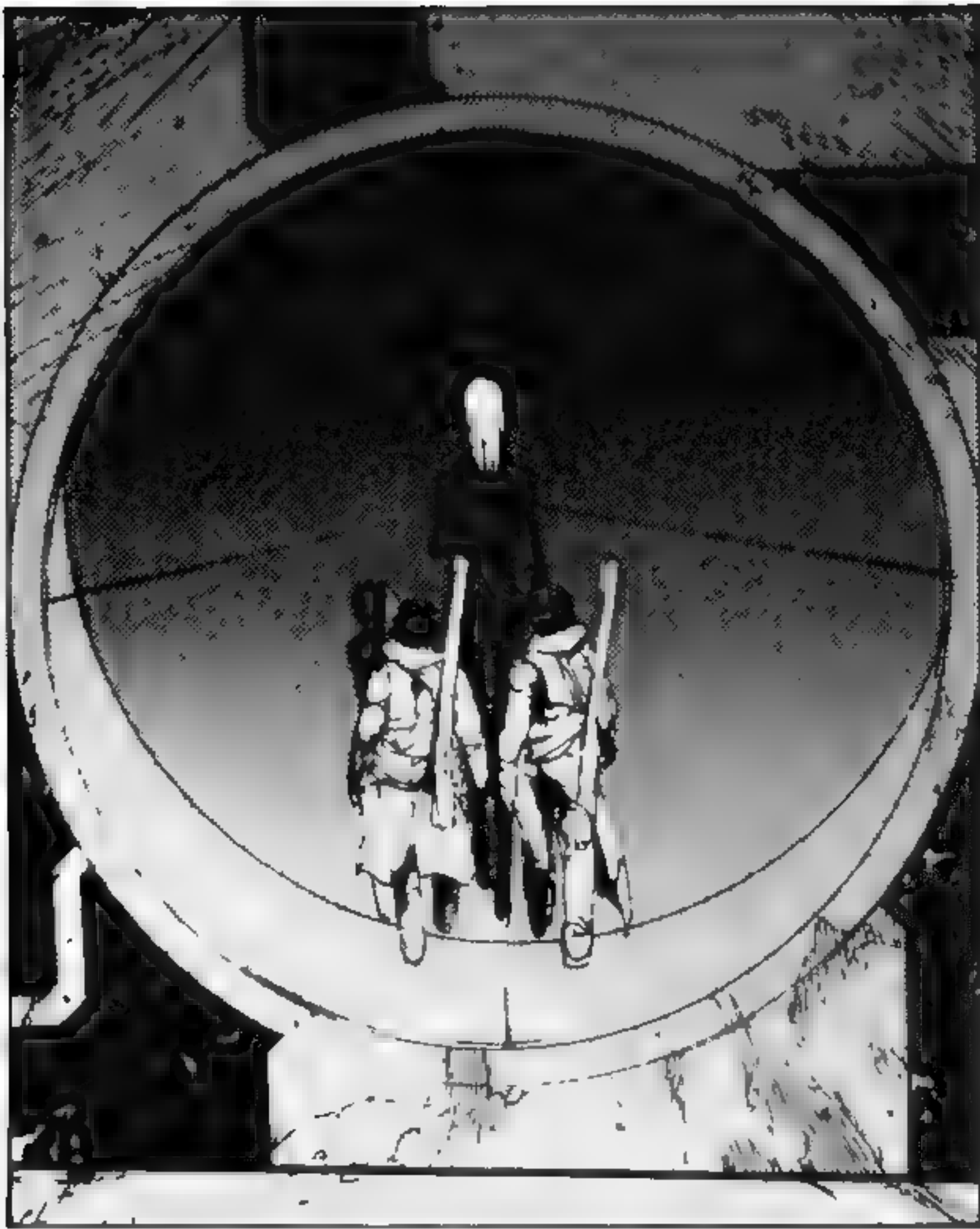


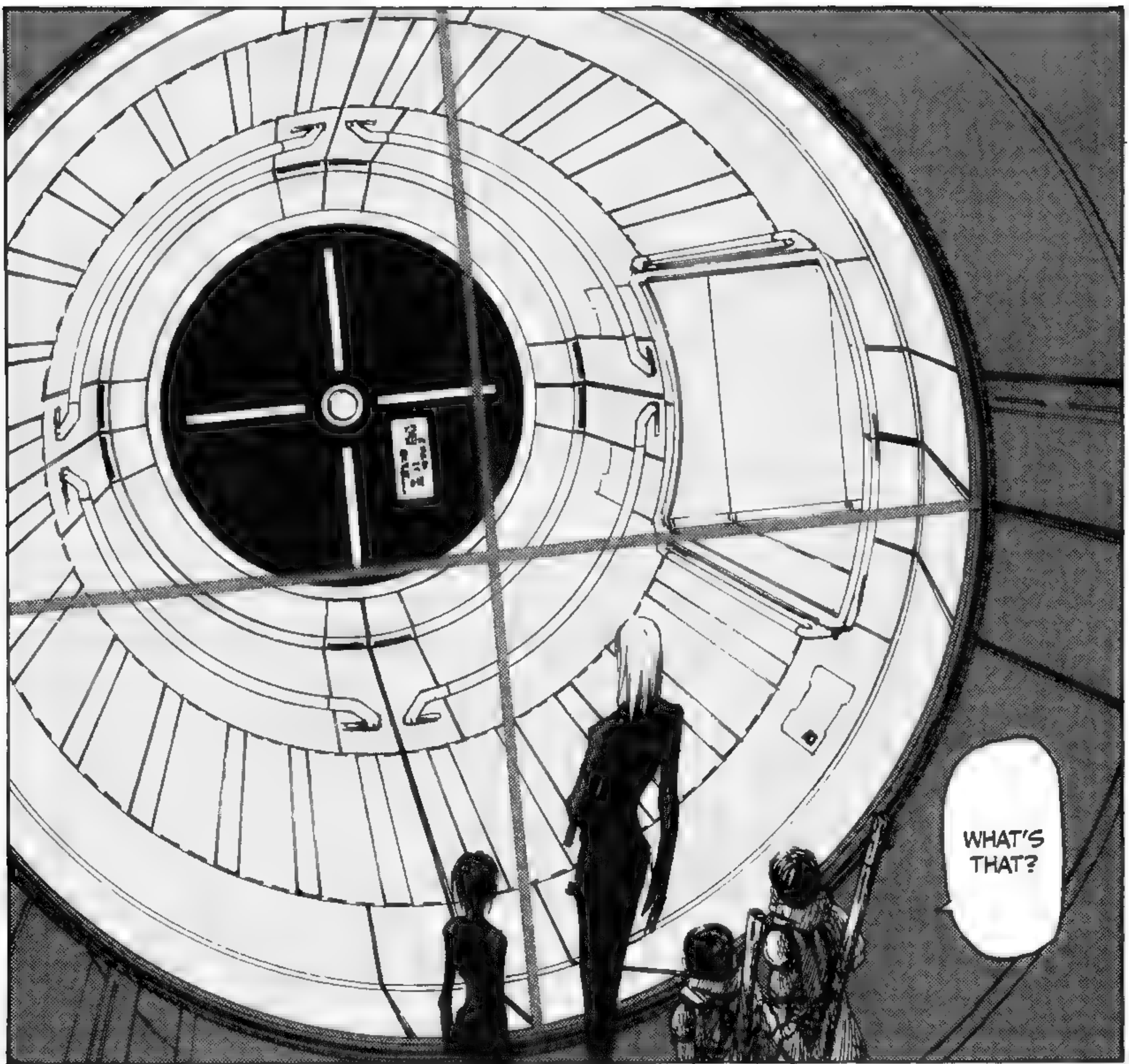


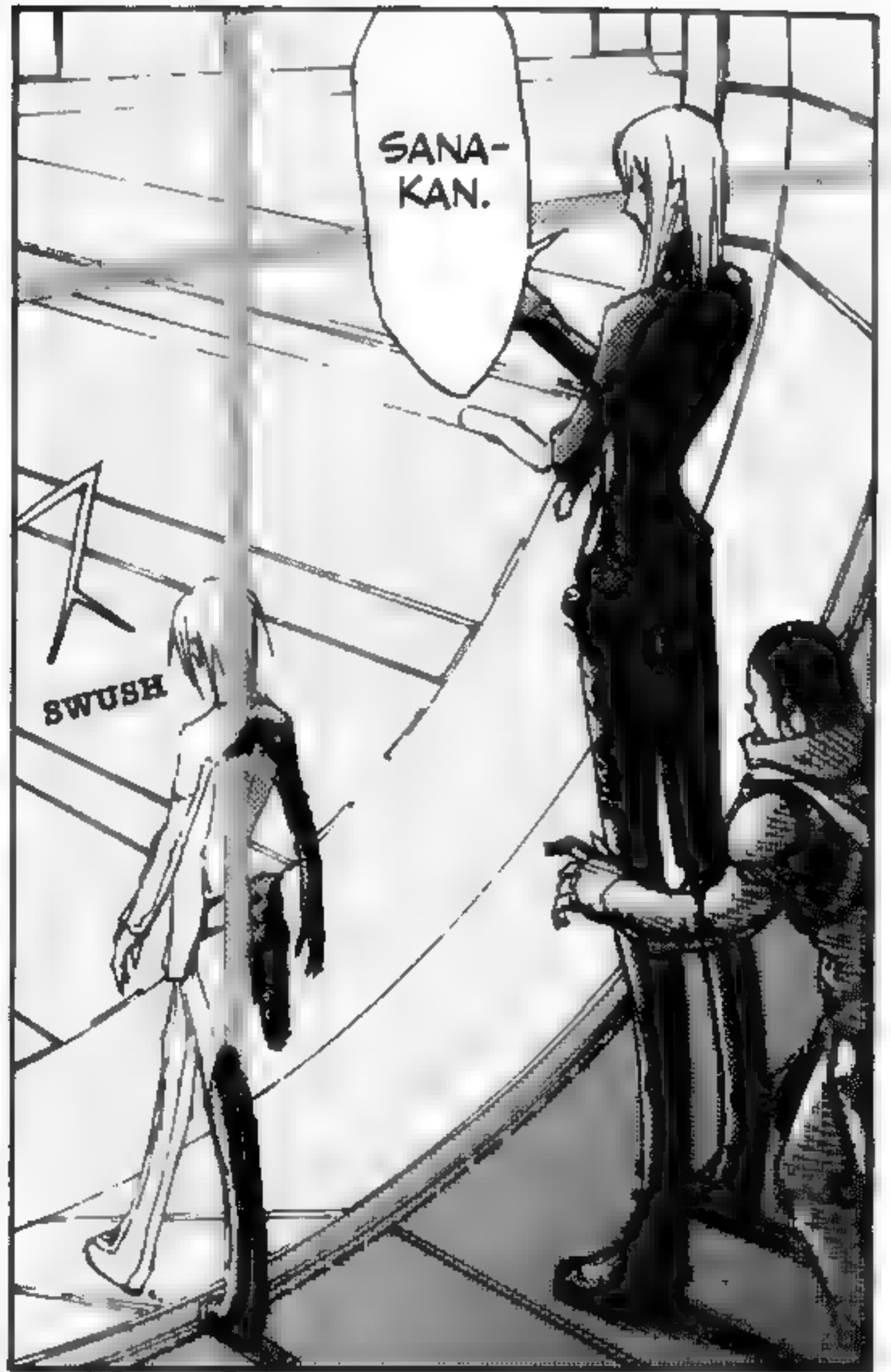
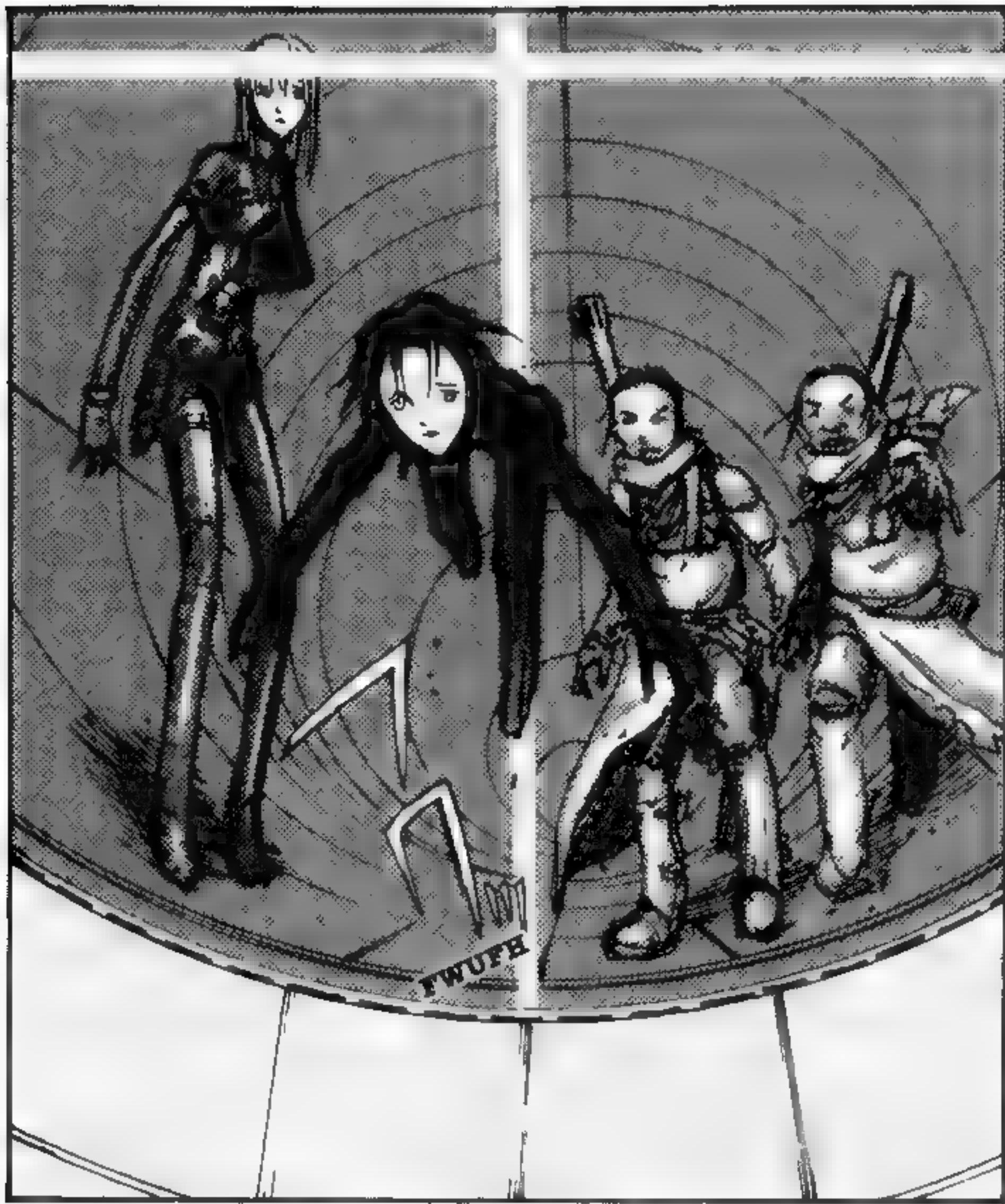


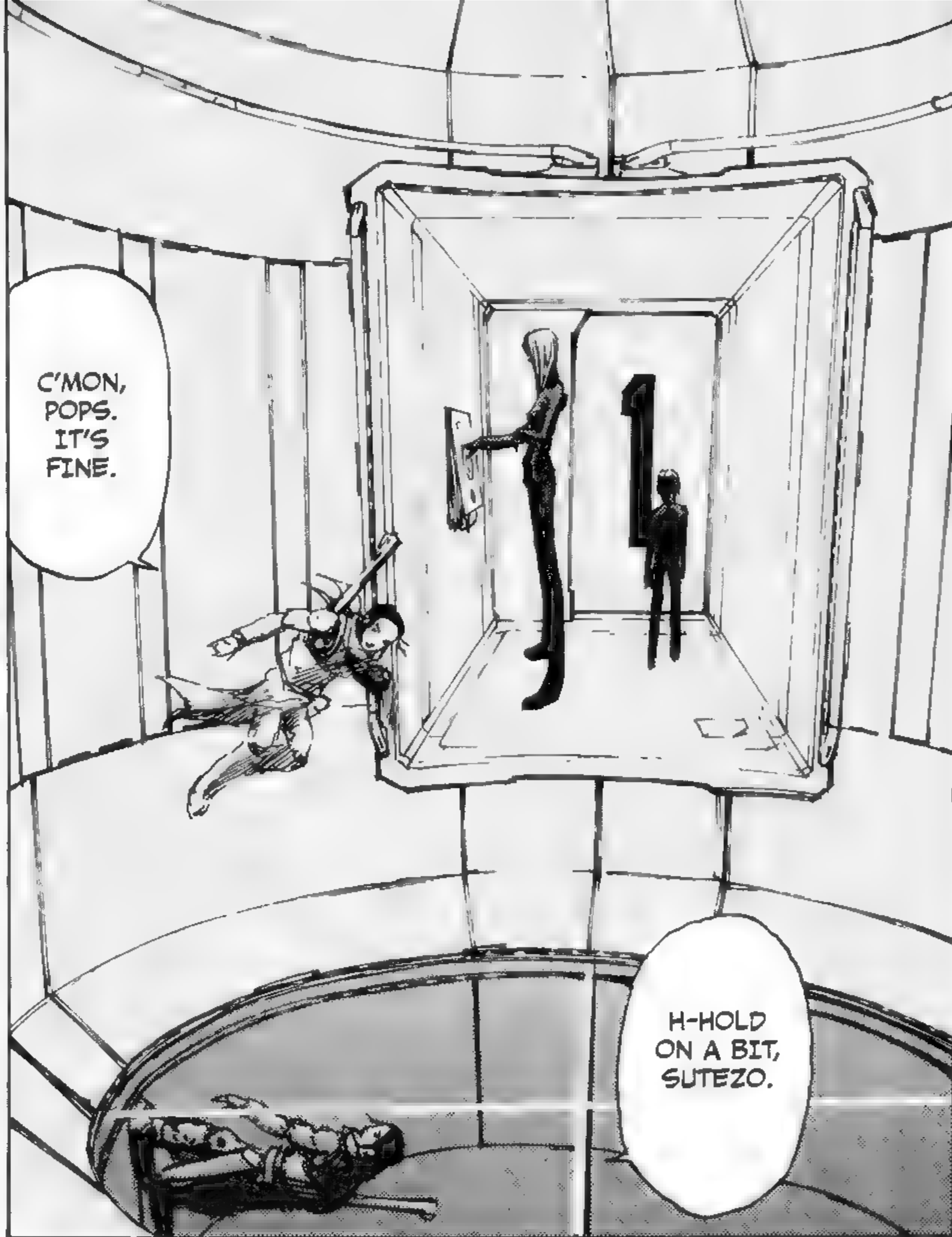


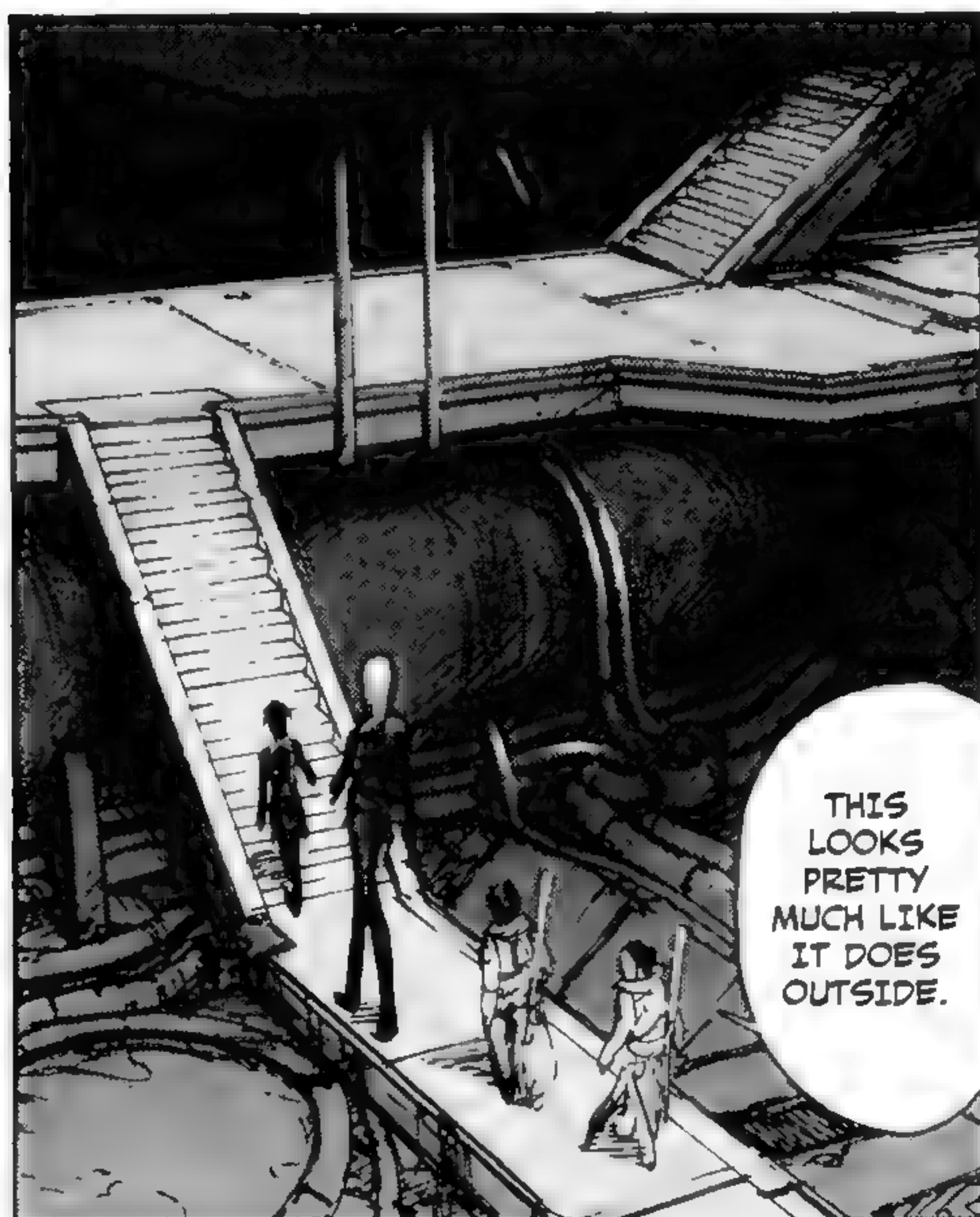
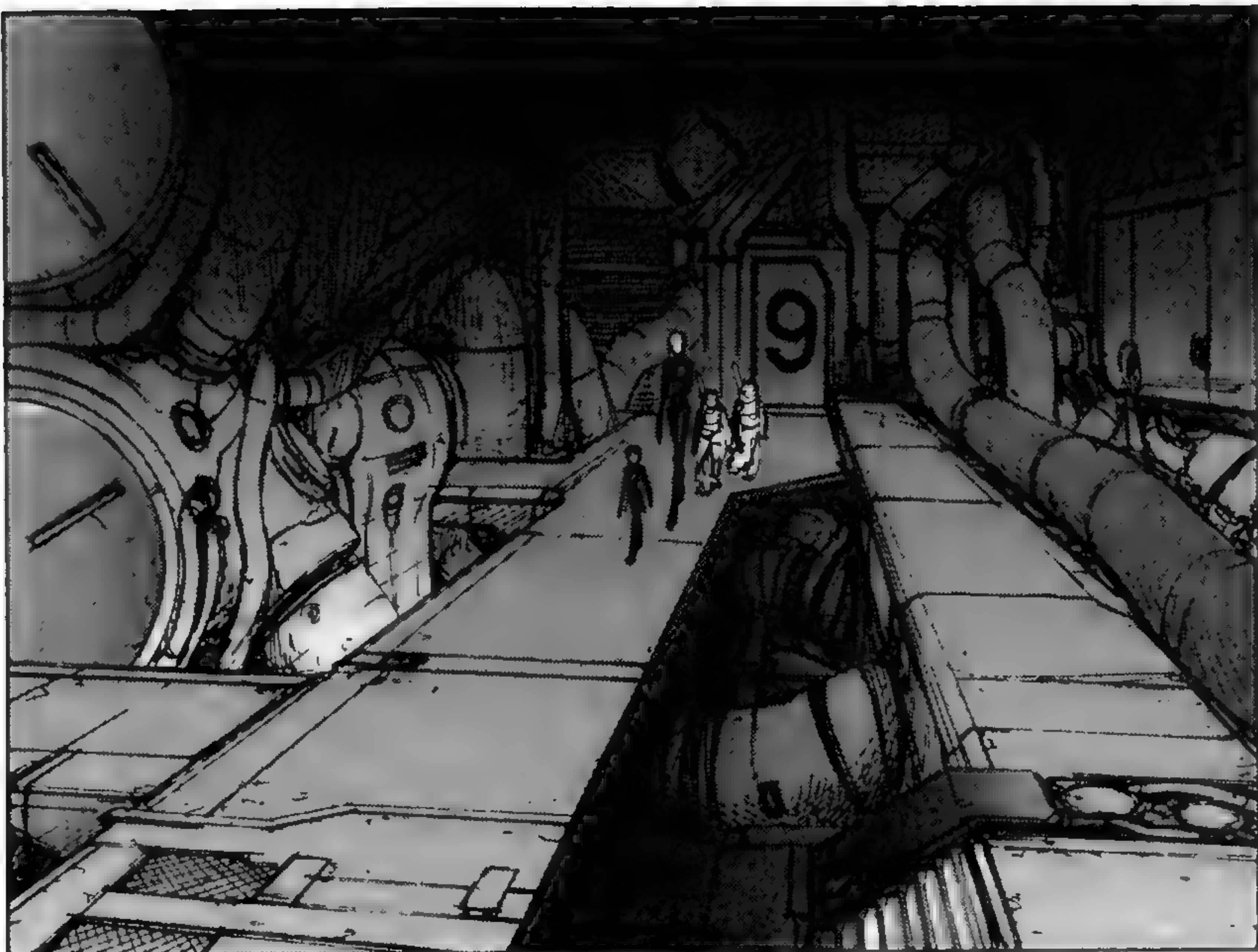


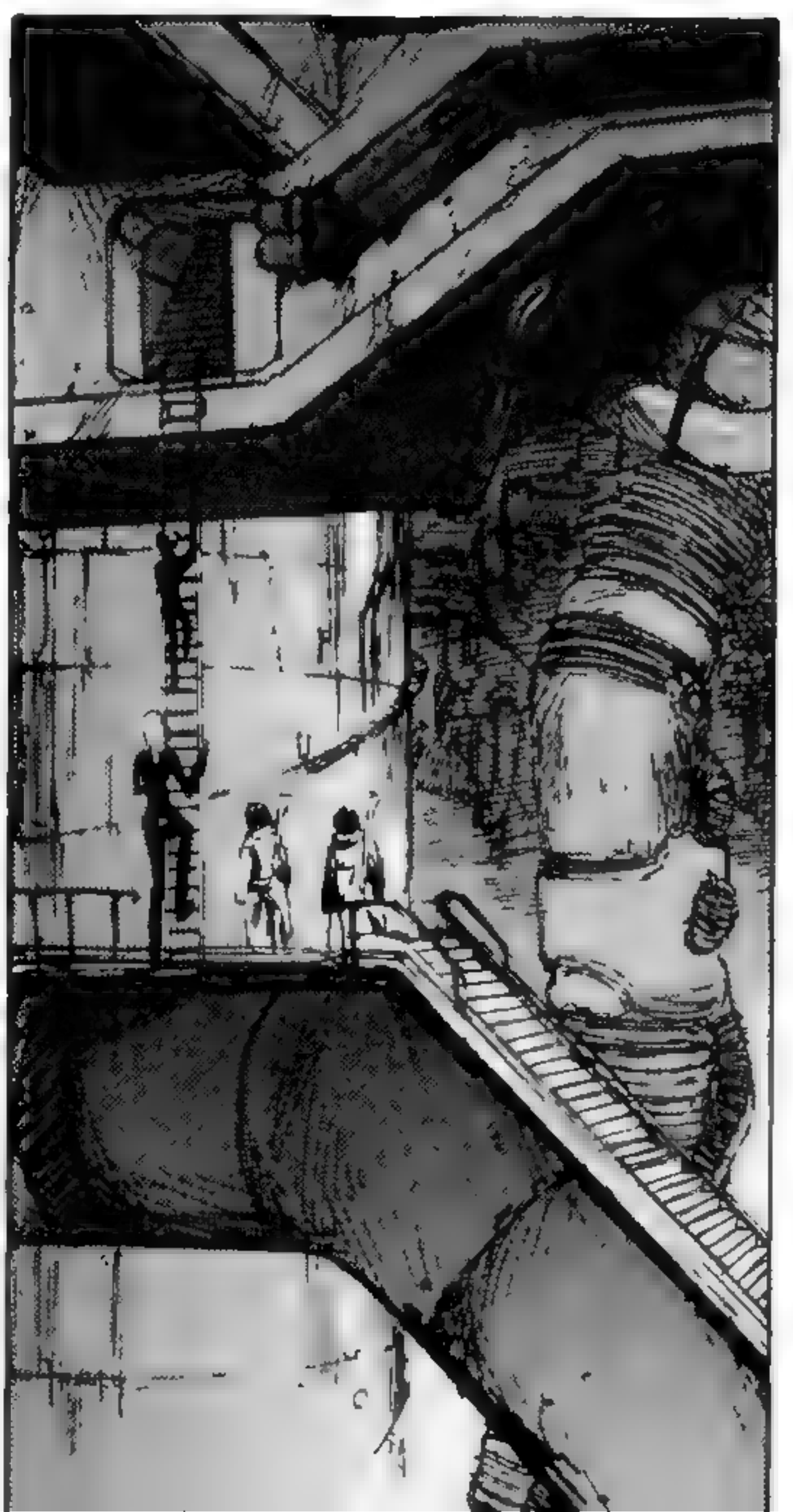
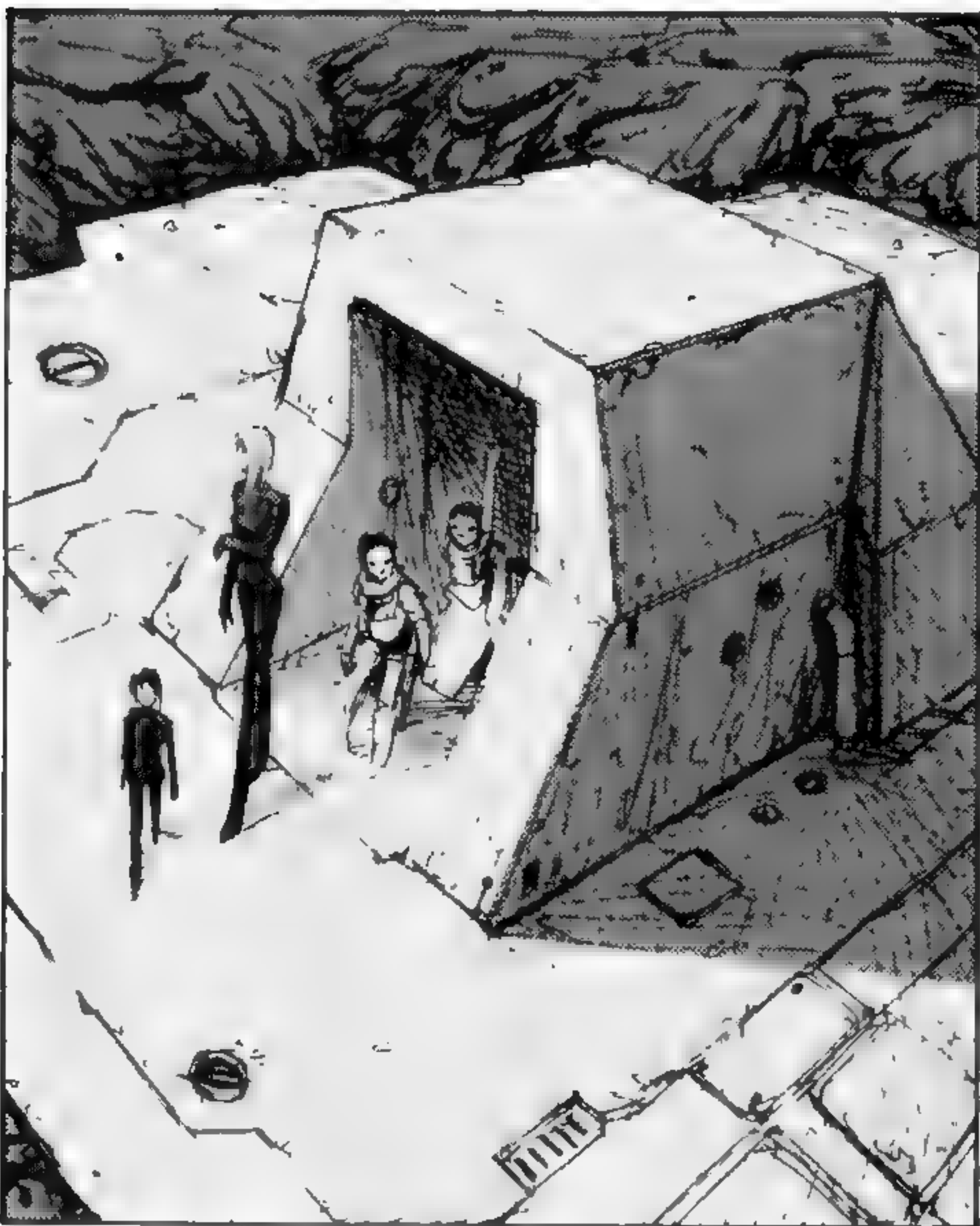
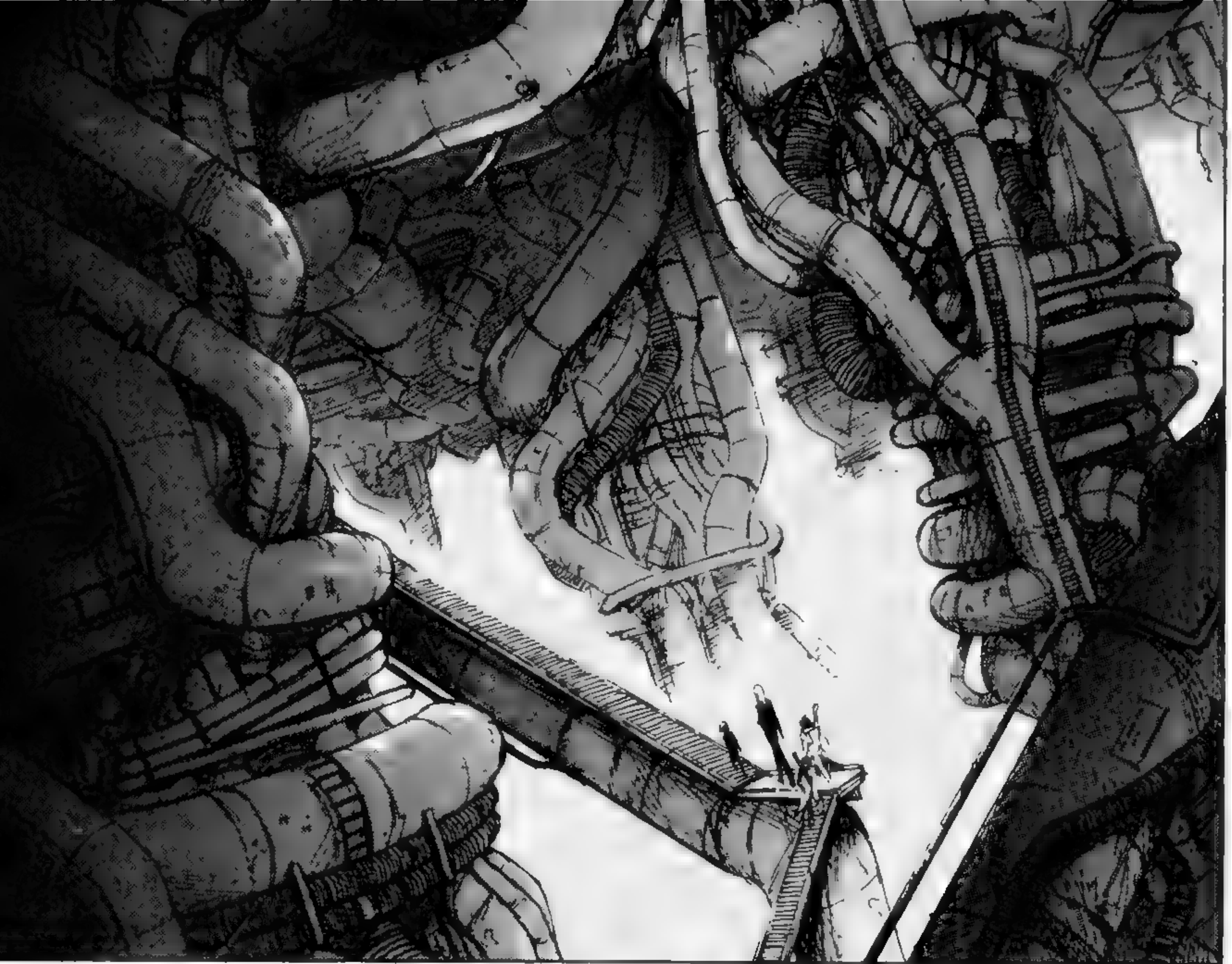






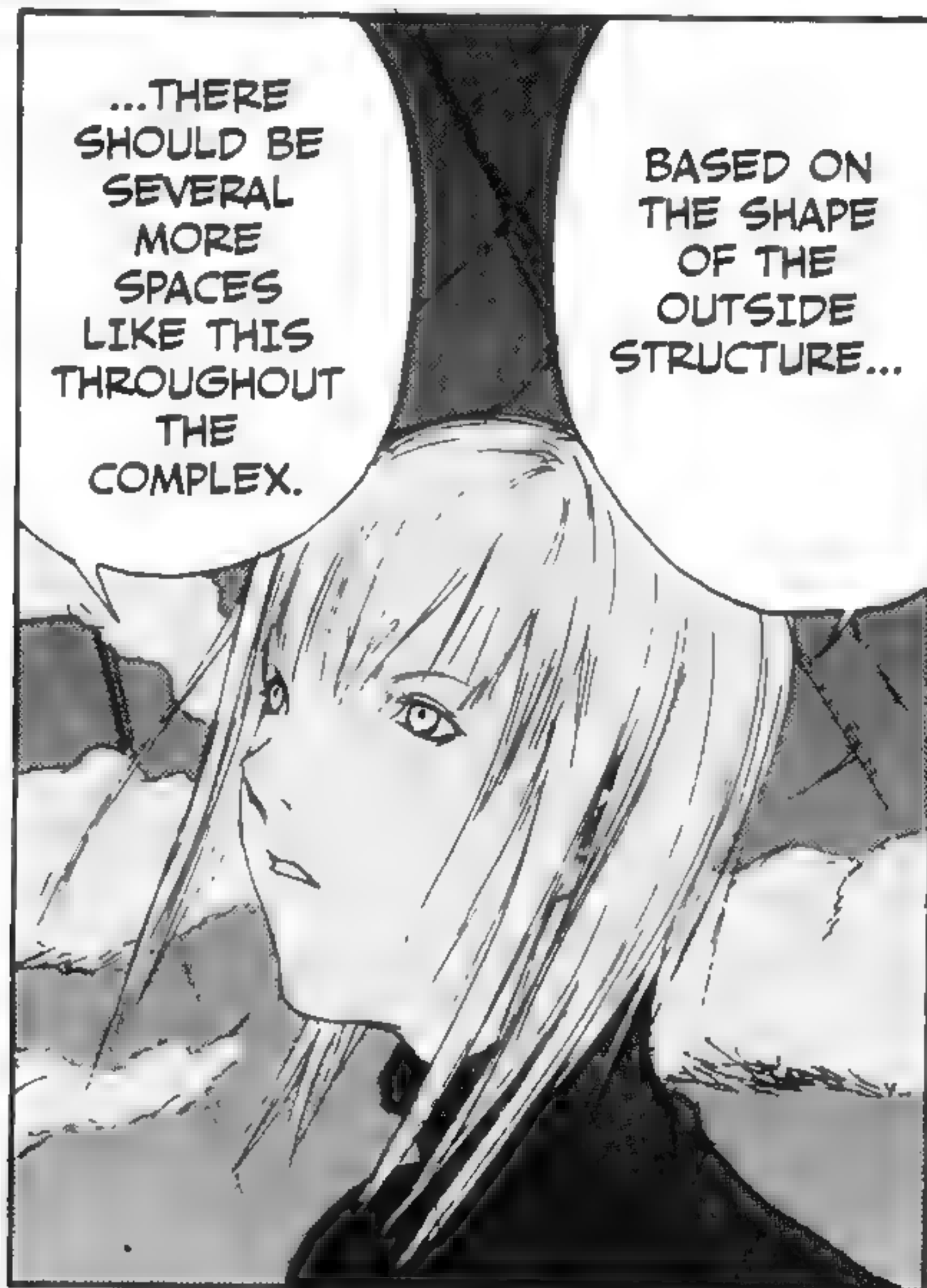


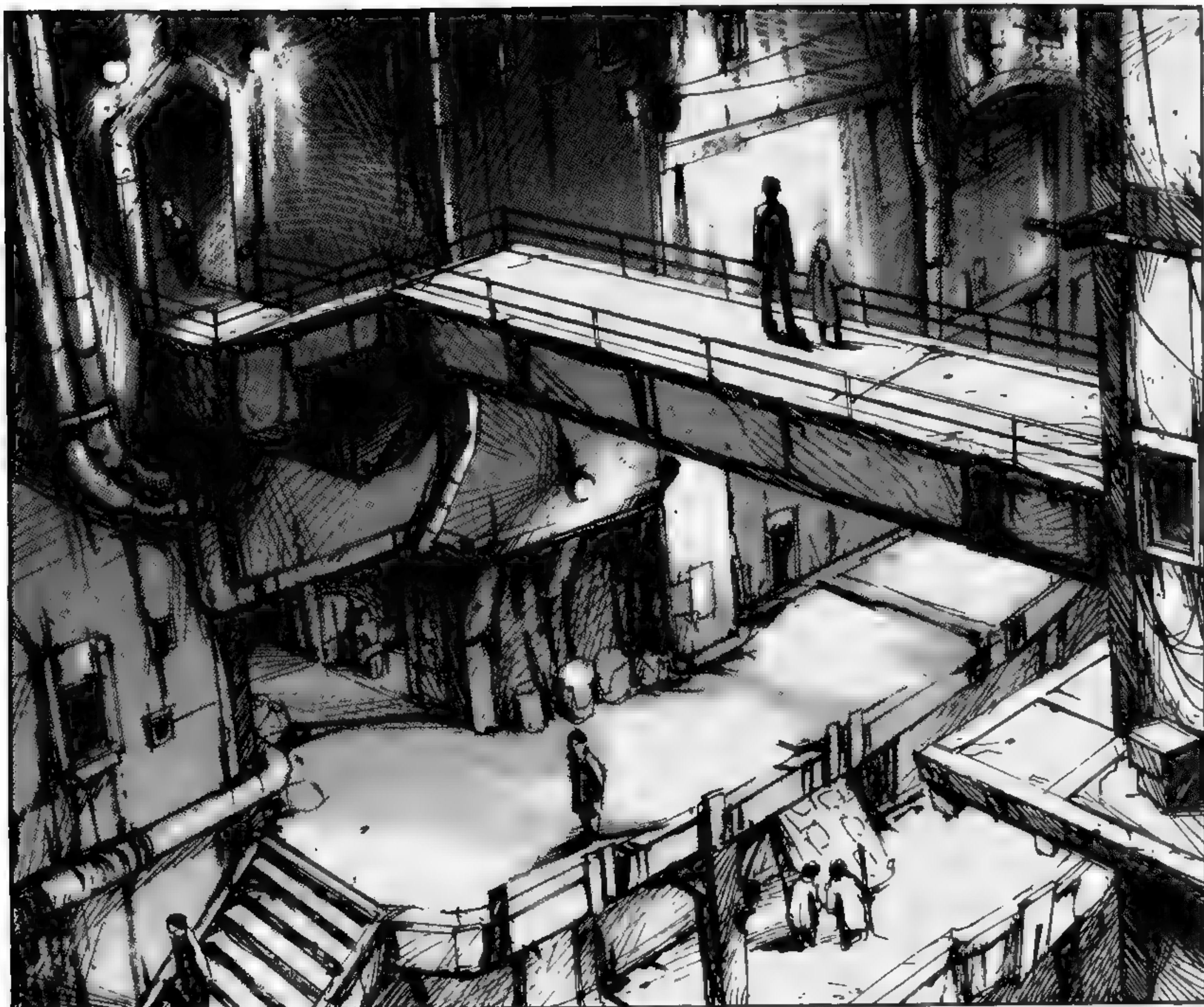


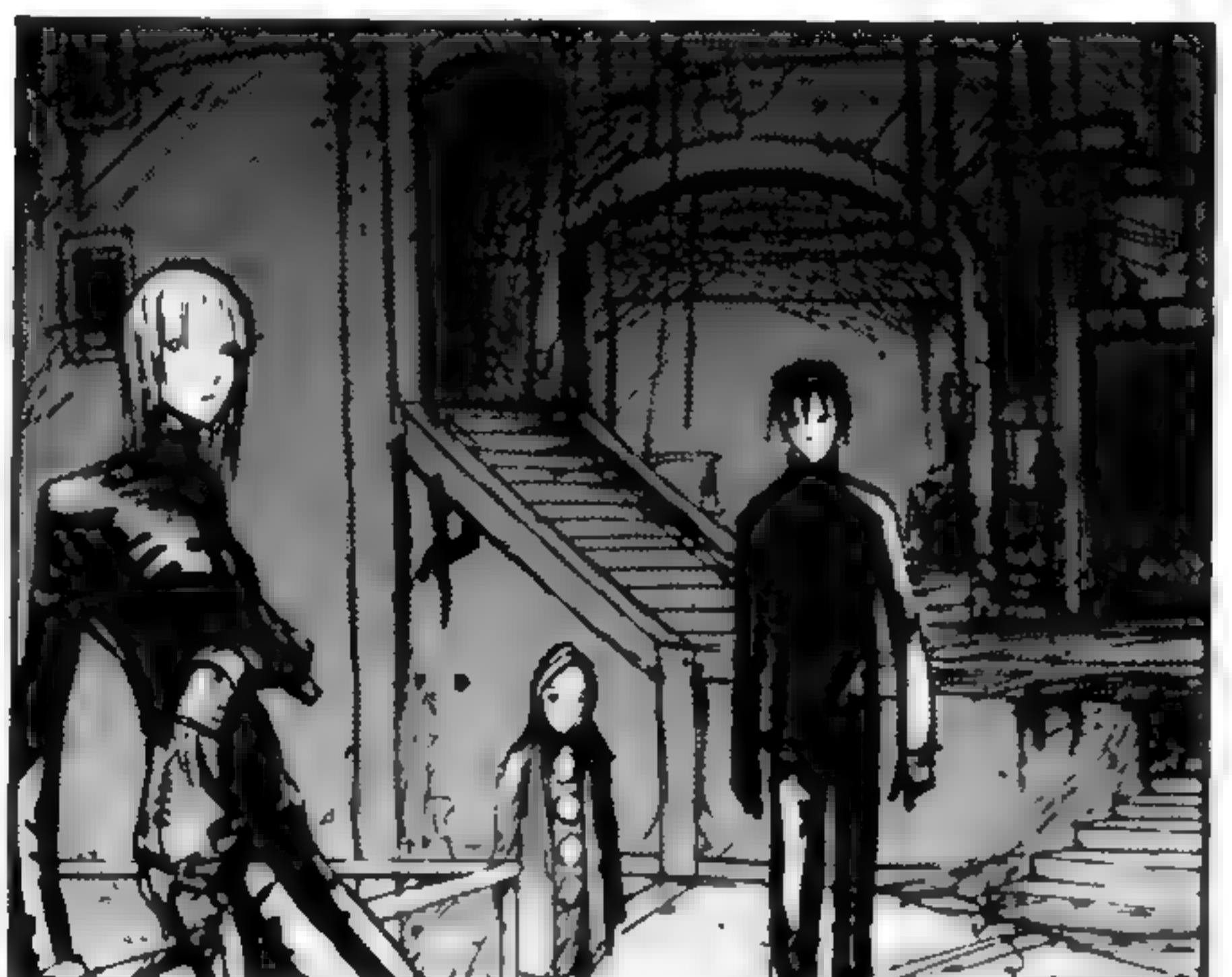
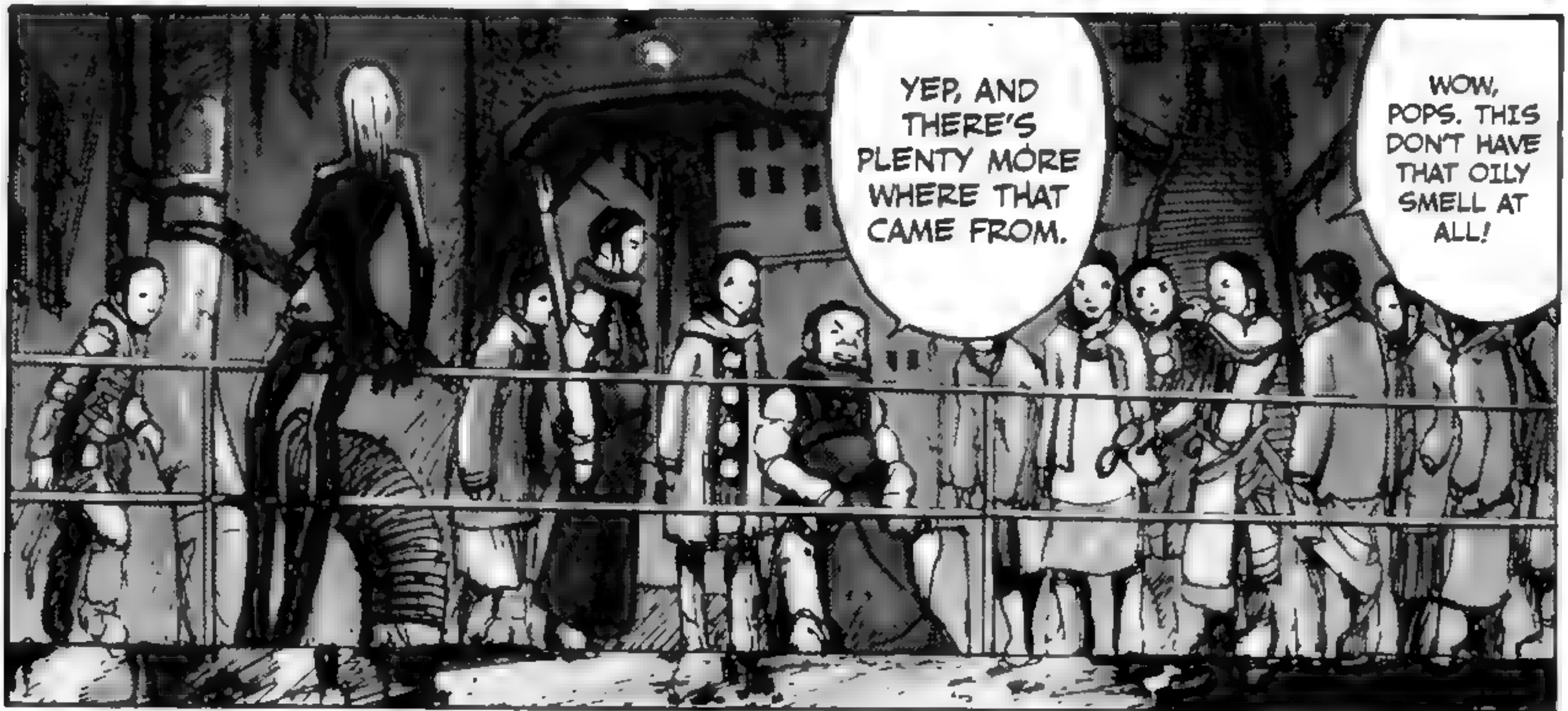
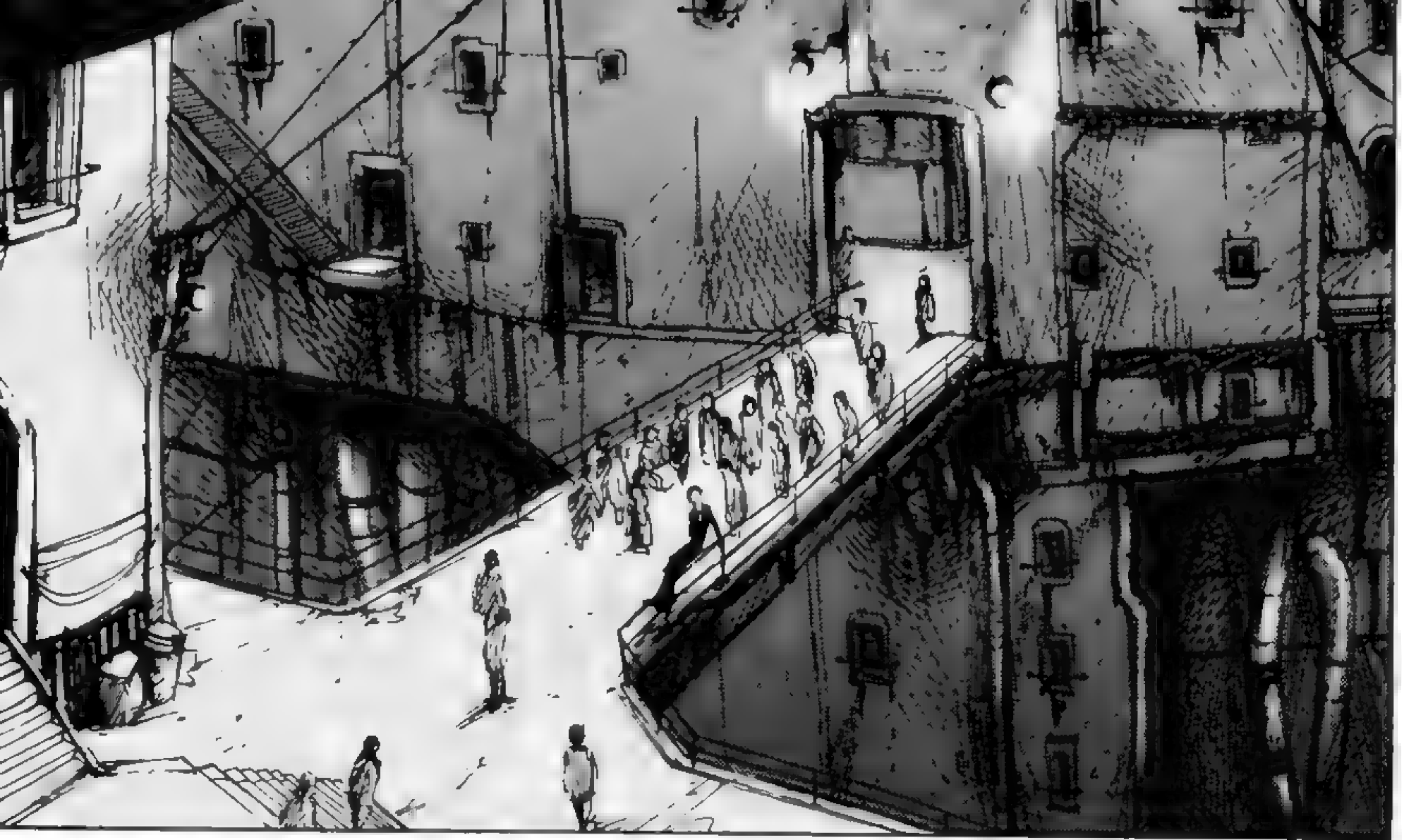


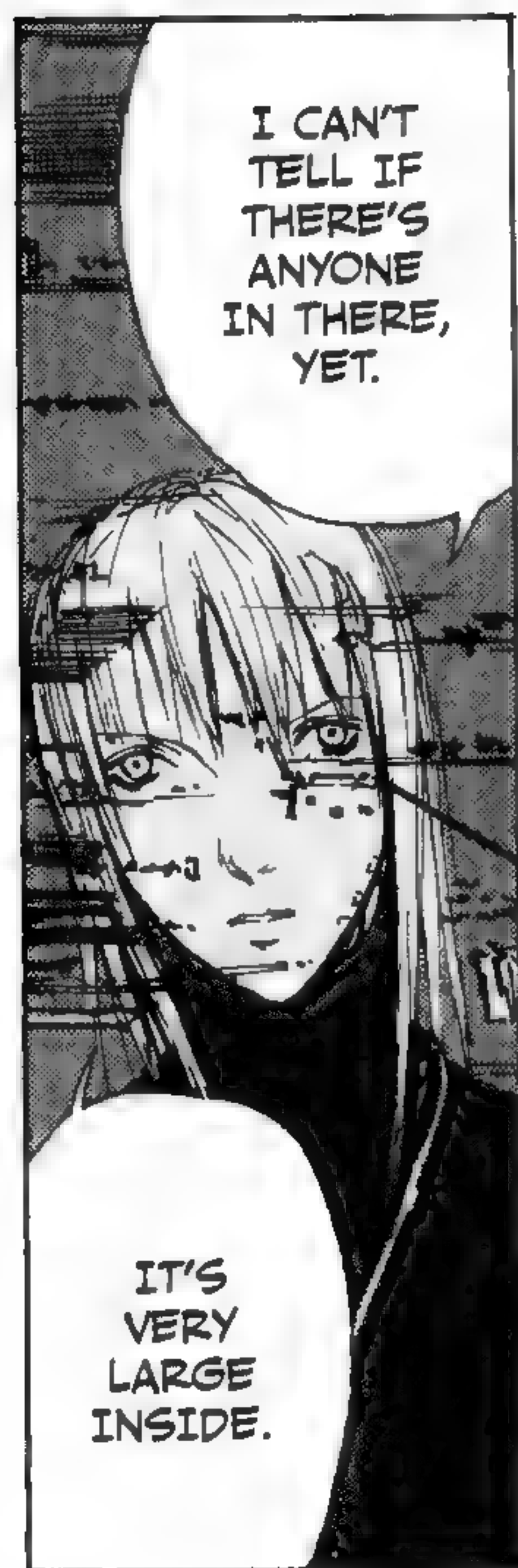
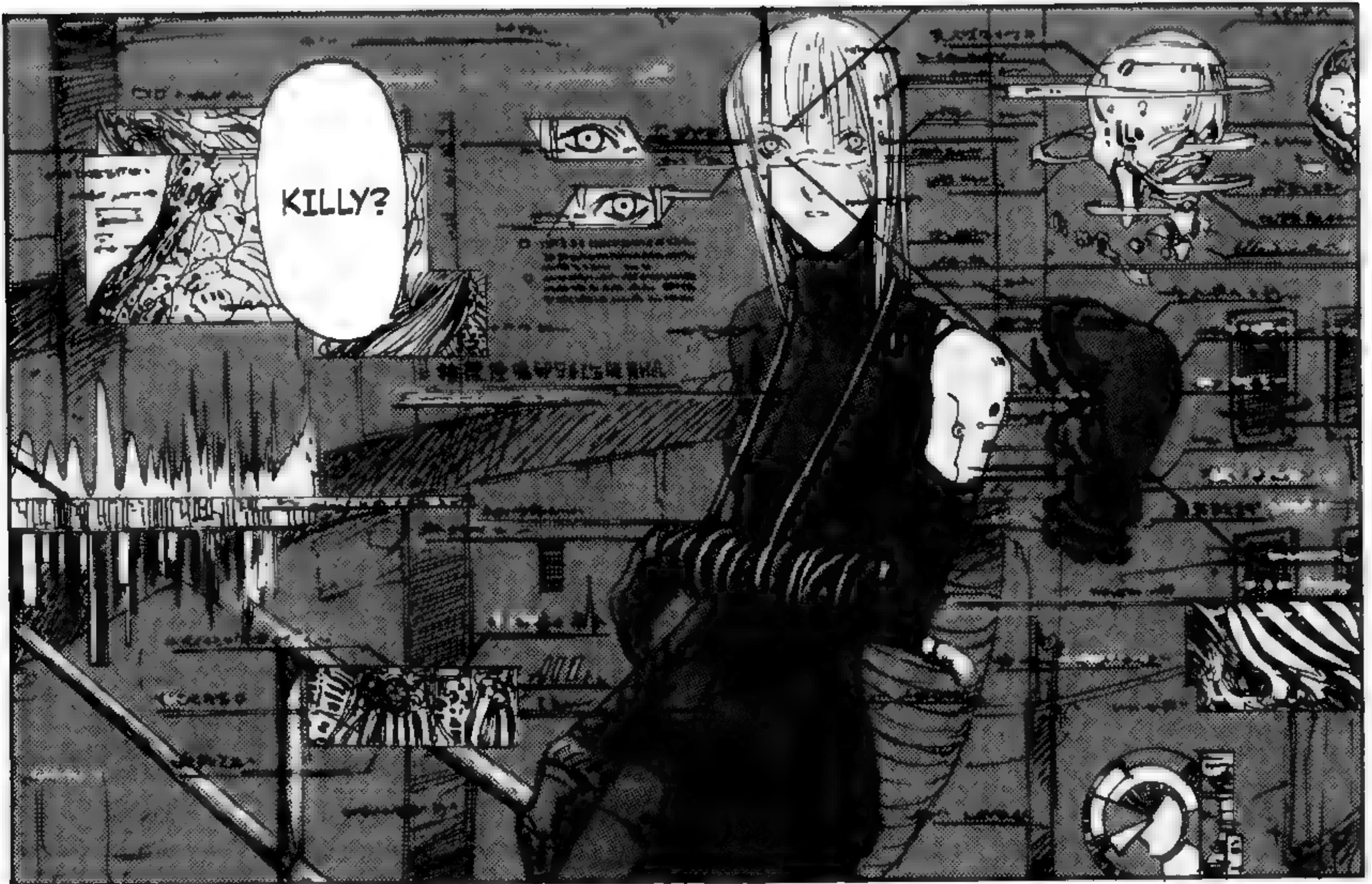




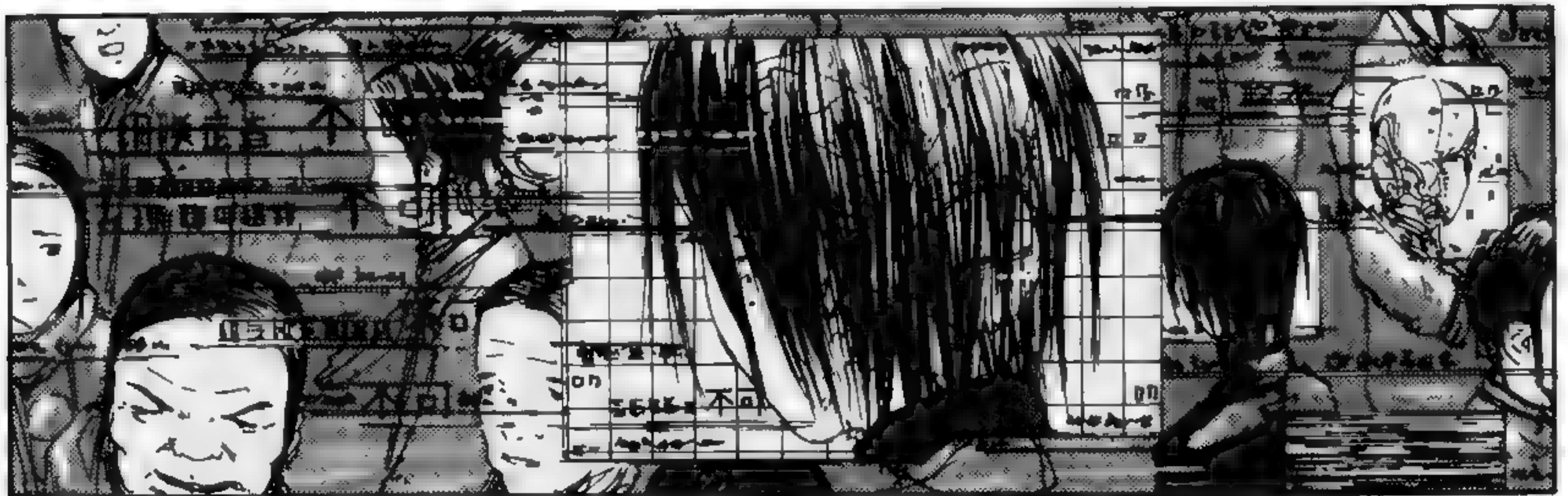












EDITOR'S NOTE THE READOUT ON KILLY'S RETINA READS "UNKNOWN"





WE
WON'T HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT
THE SAFEGUARD
COMIN' AFTER US
ANYMORE.



EDITOR'S NOTE KILLY'S RETINA NOW READS "SAFEGAURD"



RUSTLE
RUSTLE

WE OWE
YA ONE,
KID.

AN'
IT'S ALL
THANKS
TO YOU
FOLKS.





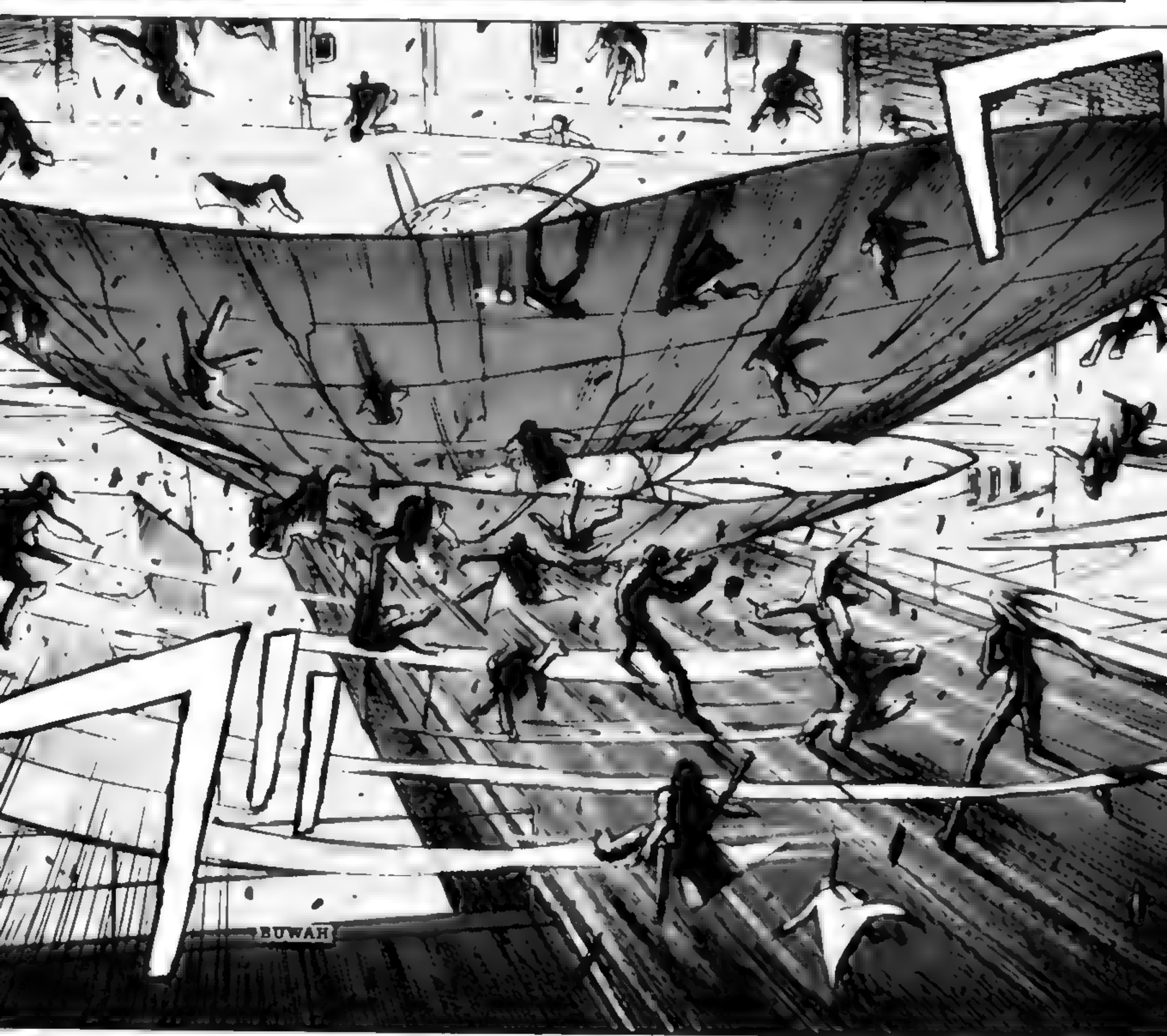




...ALL
INHABITANTS
WITHOUT NET
TERMINAL
GENES.

WE
SAFE-
GUARD
WILL
EXTERMI-
NATE...

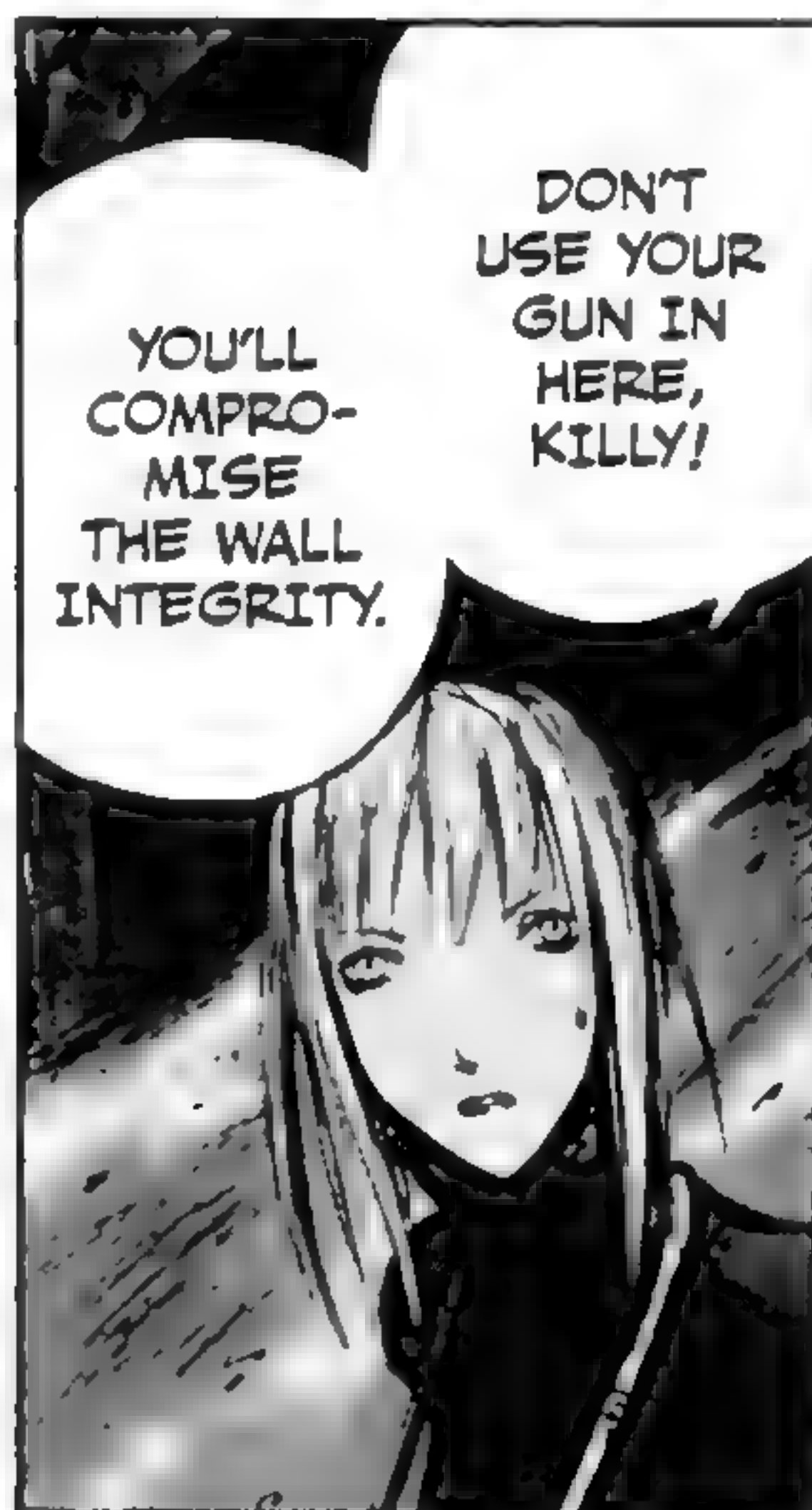


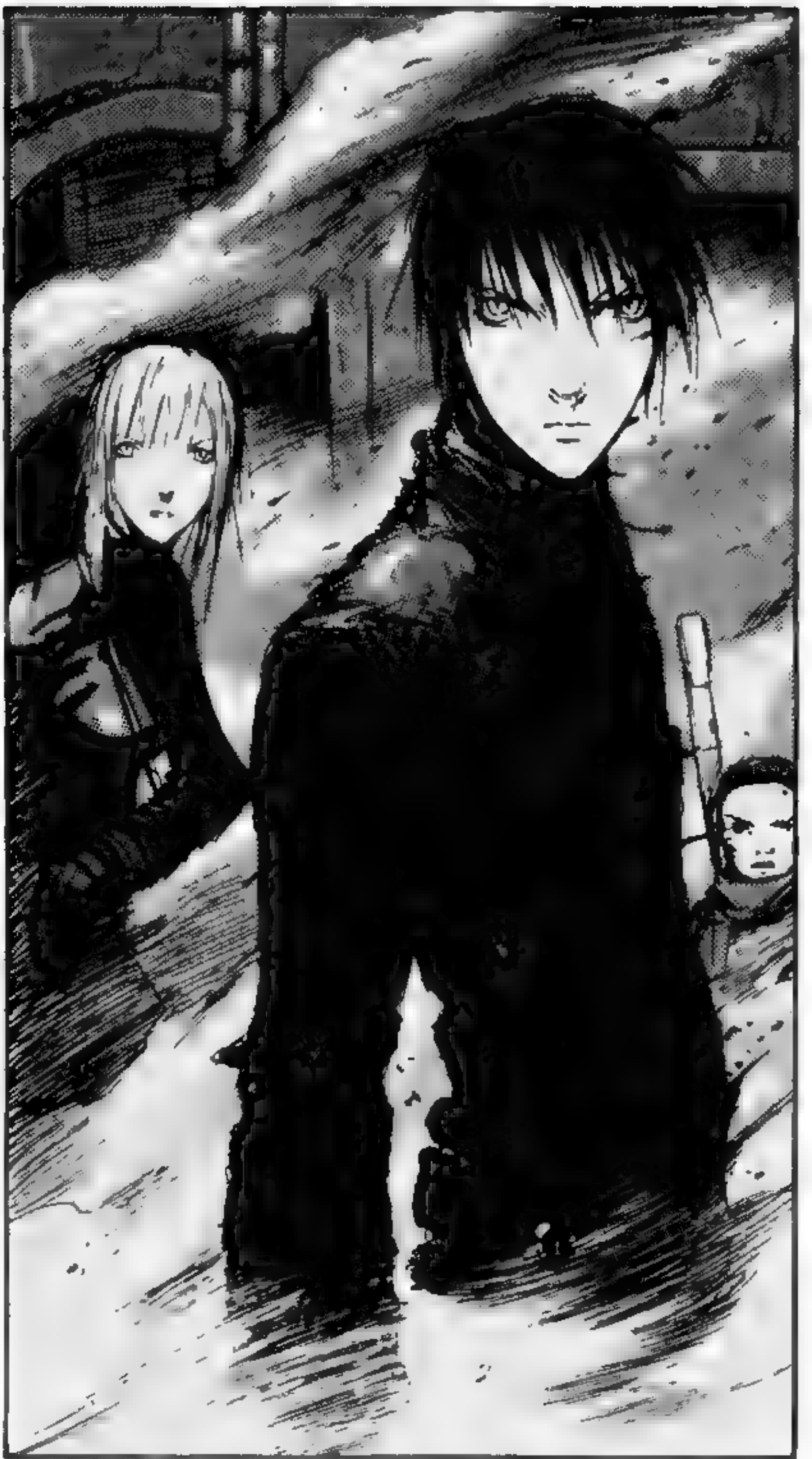




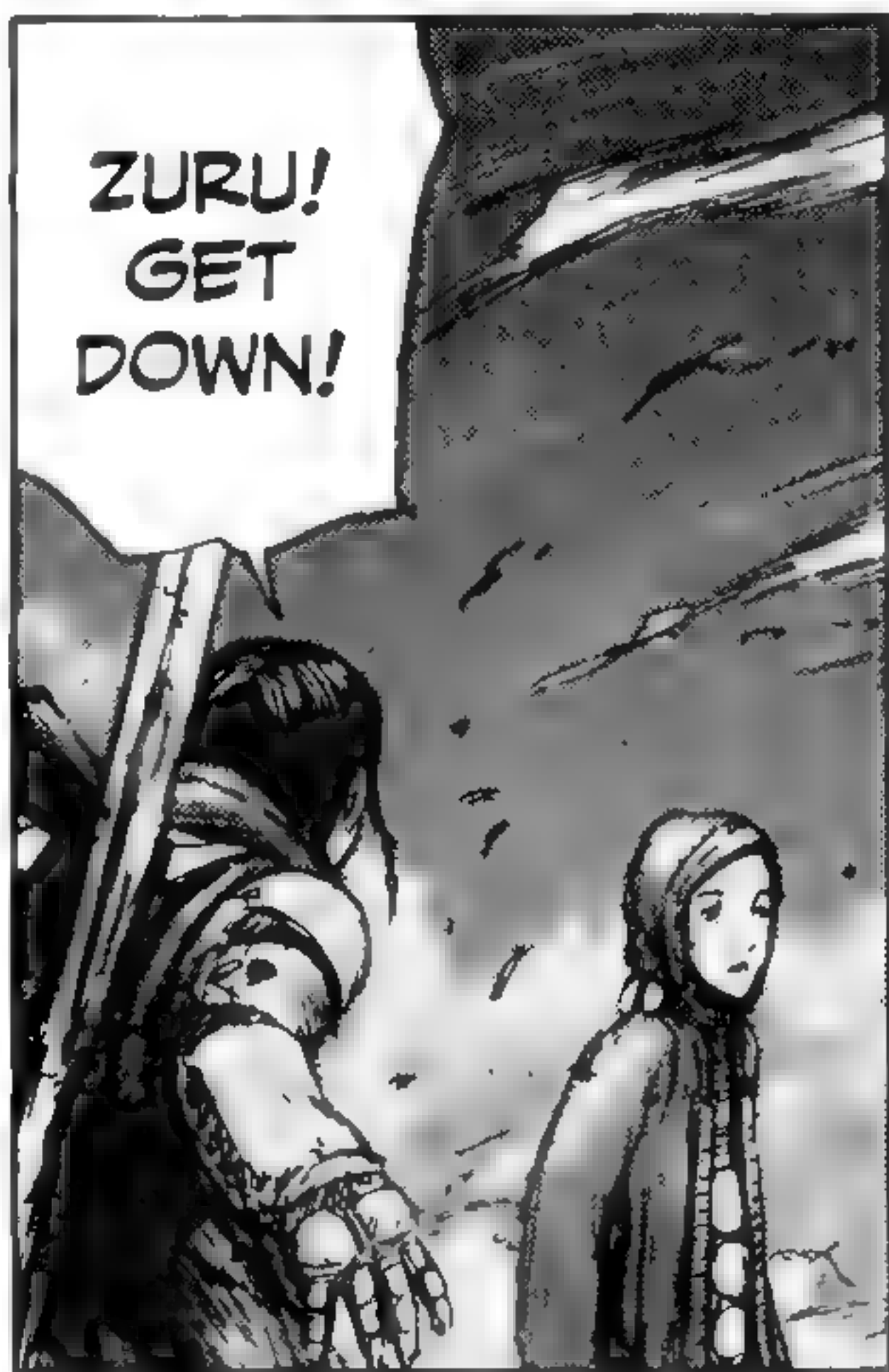
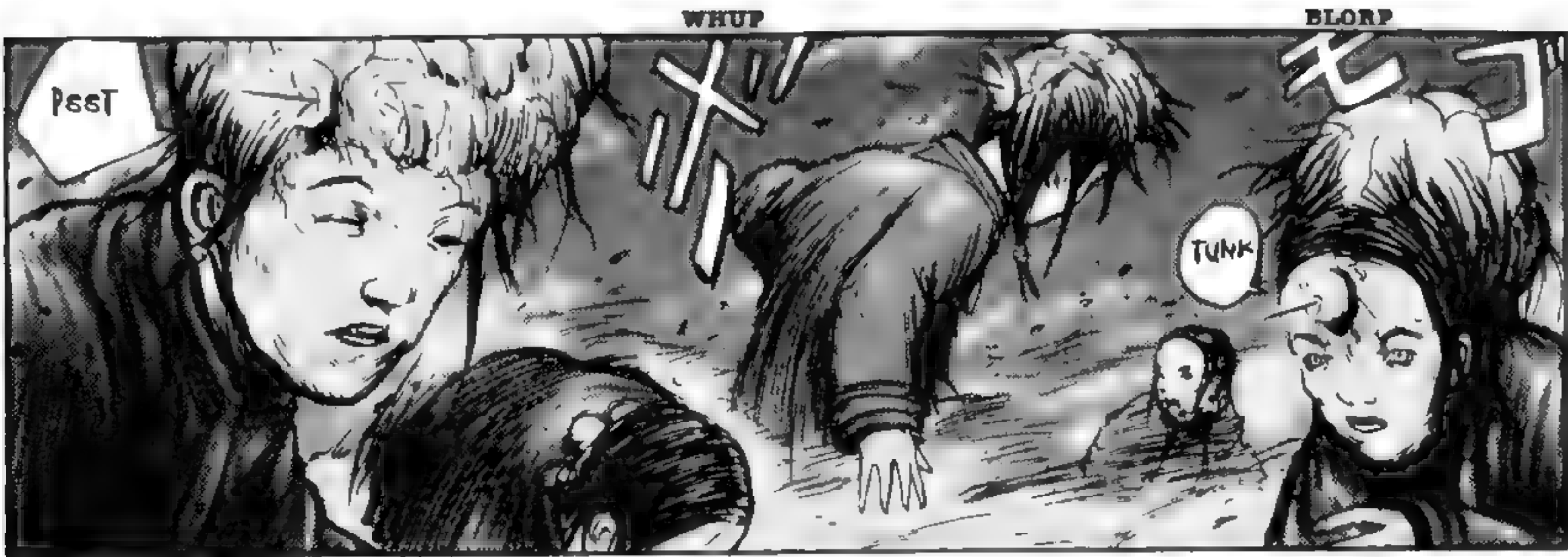


LOG.15@END

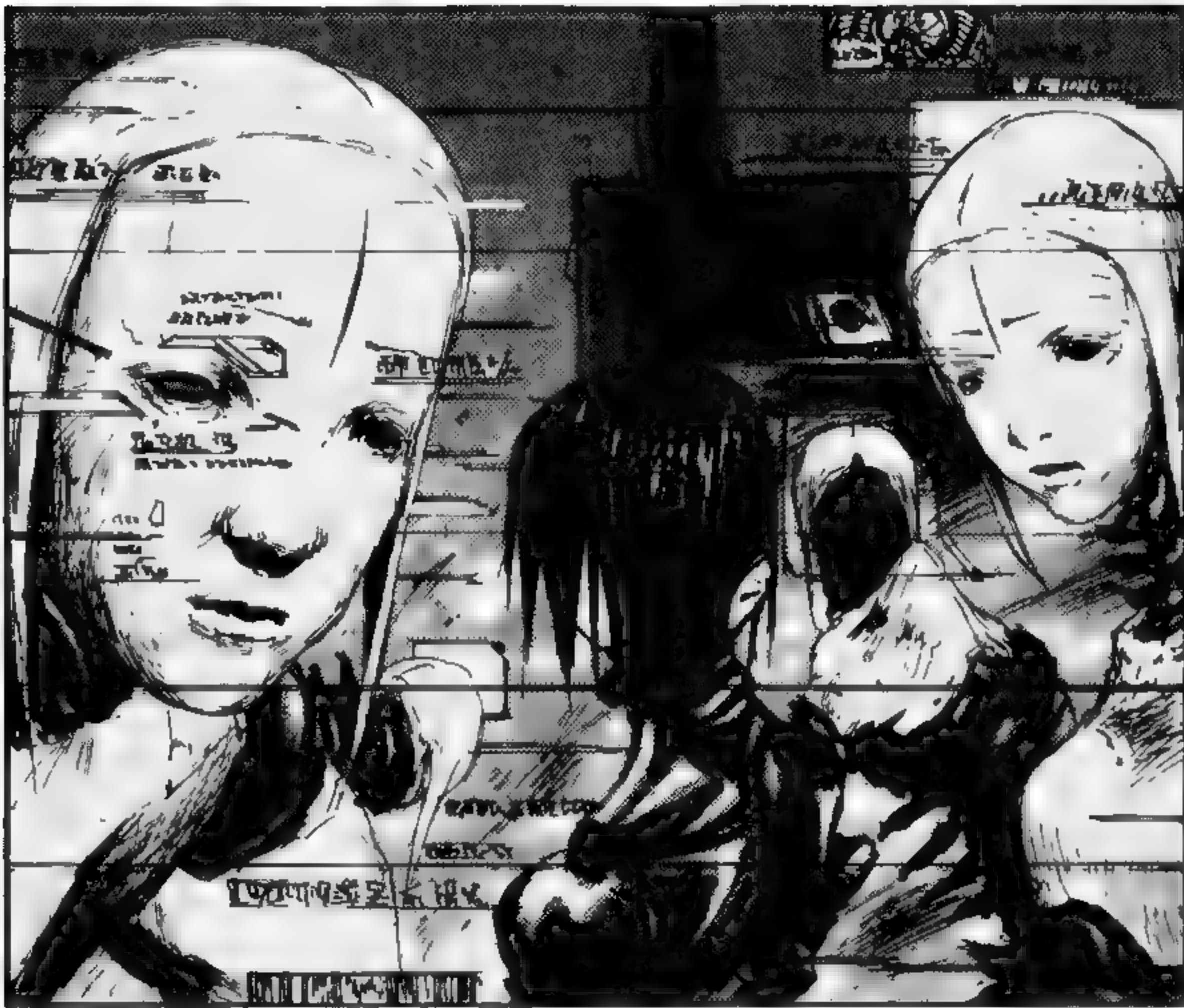
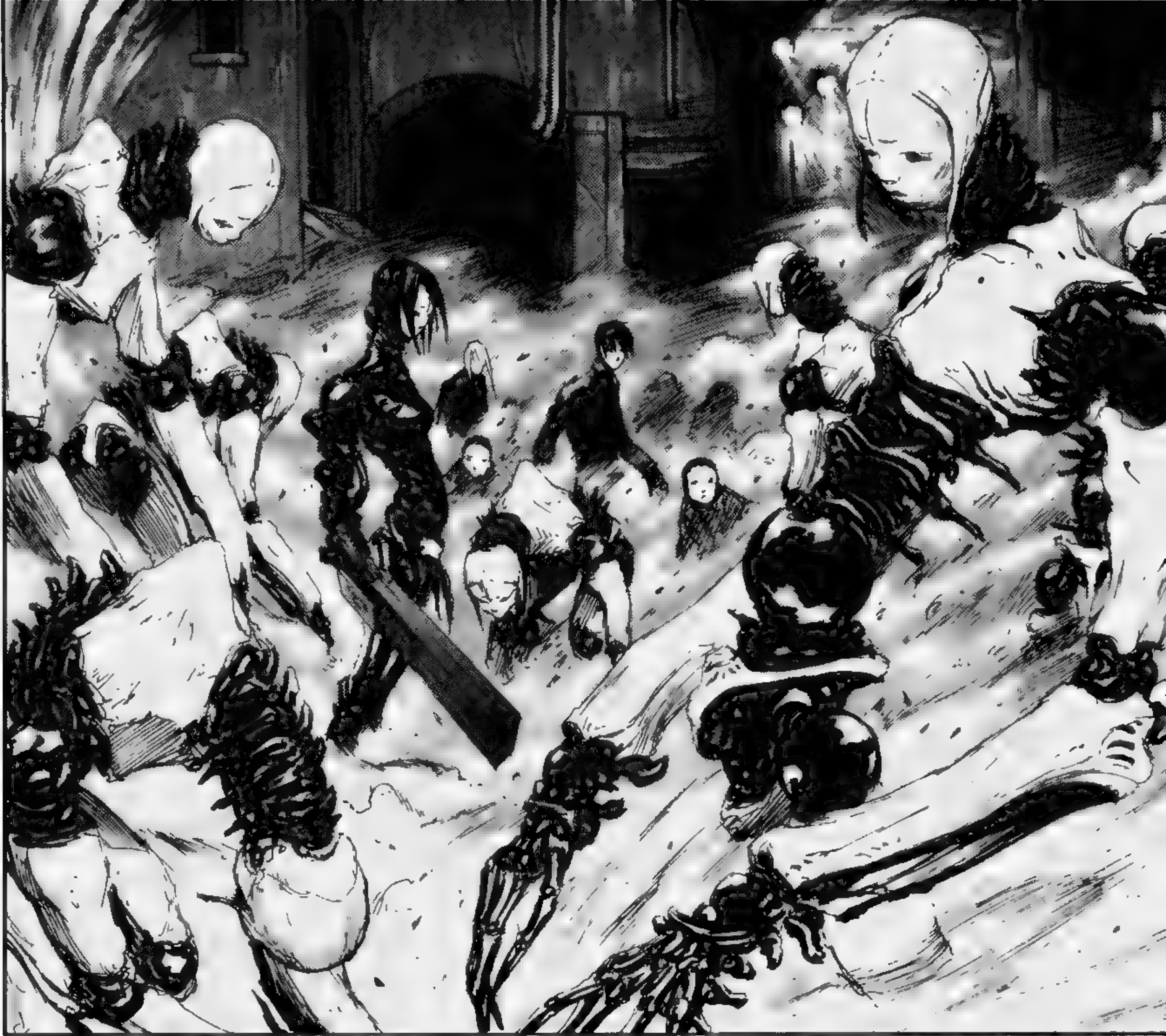
















WHISH



CRUNCH

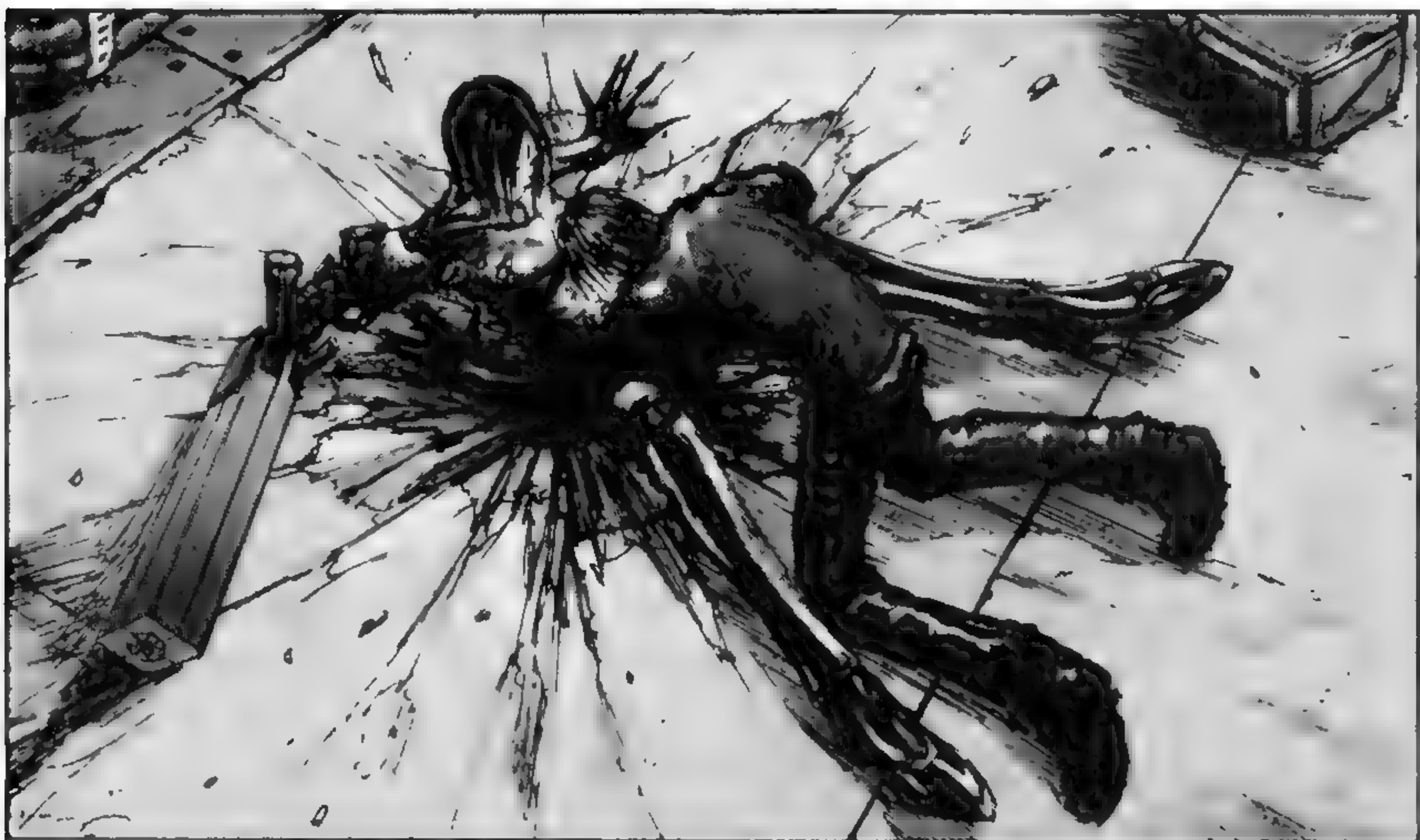
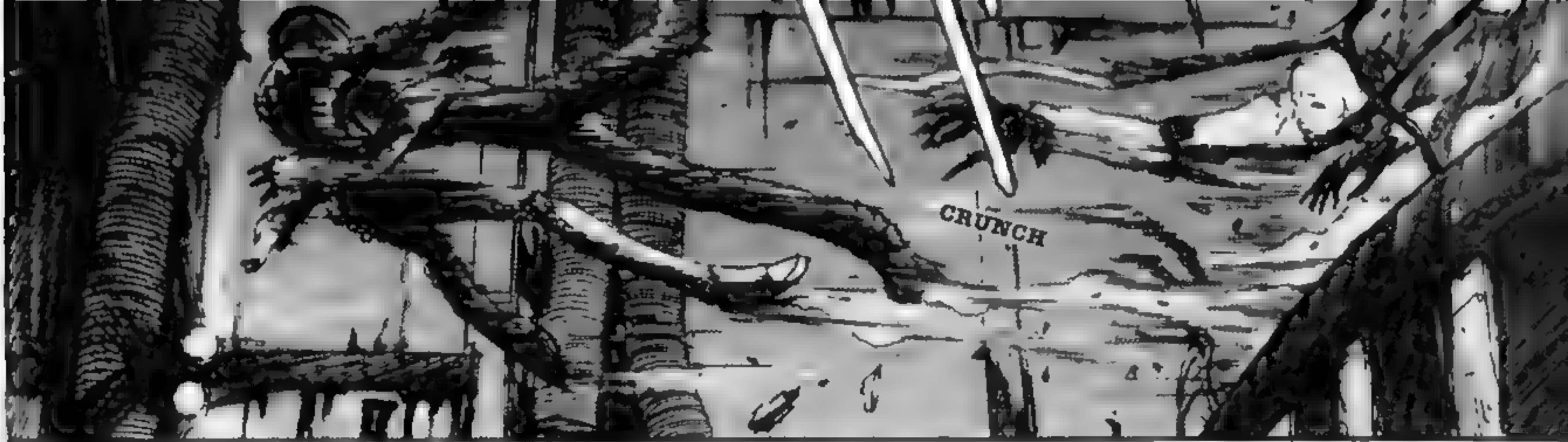


IT'S
THE
SAFE-
GUARD!

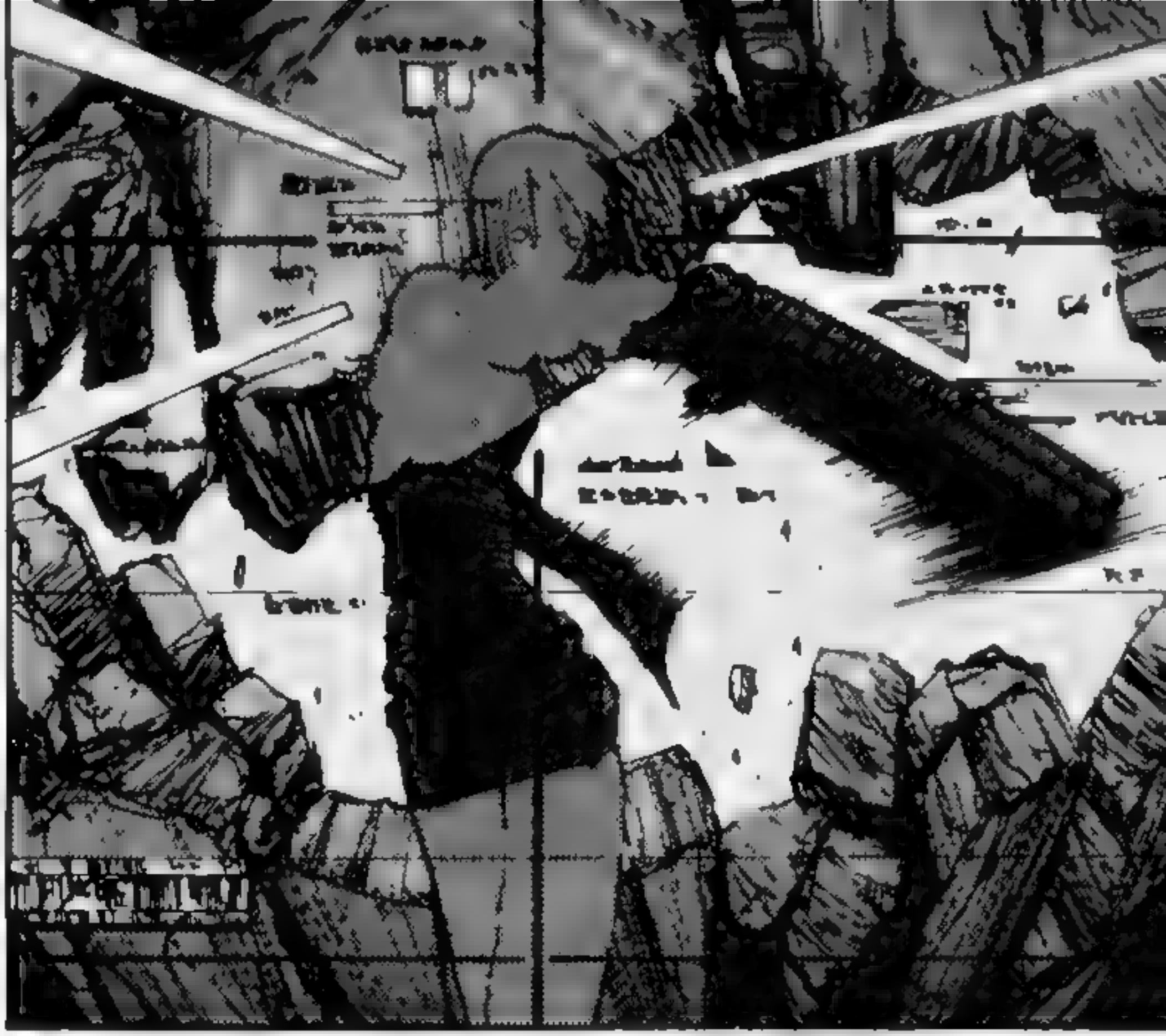


BSHOO





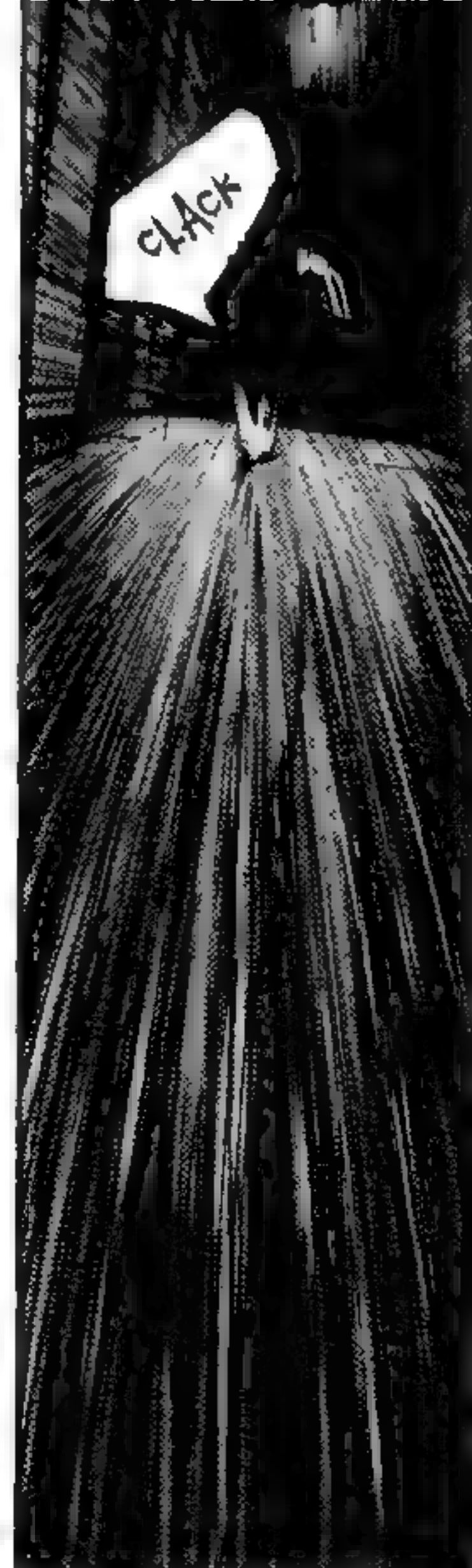




KA-BOOOM



SLISH





WHUSH



DOGA

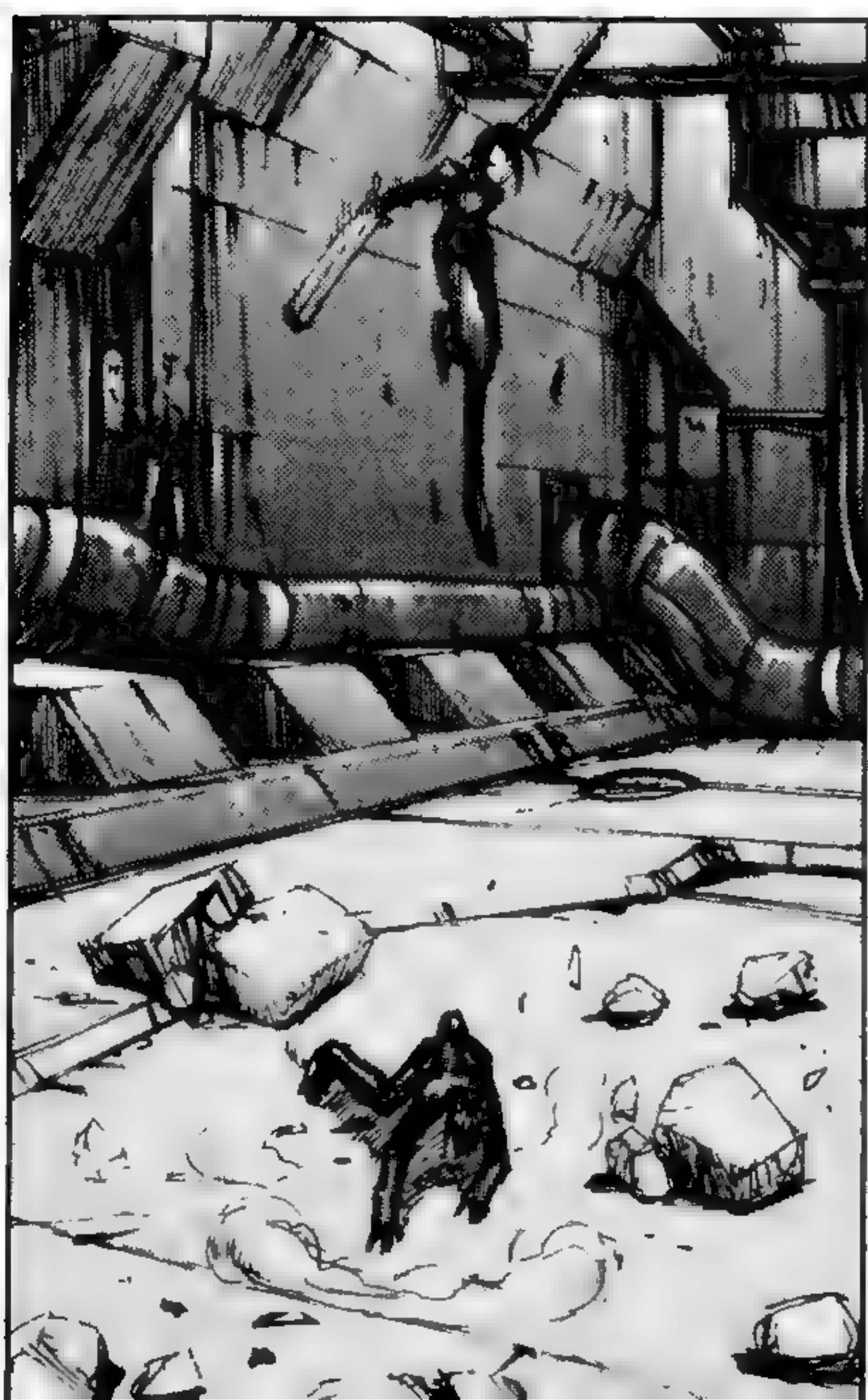




CRUNCH

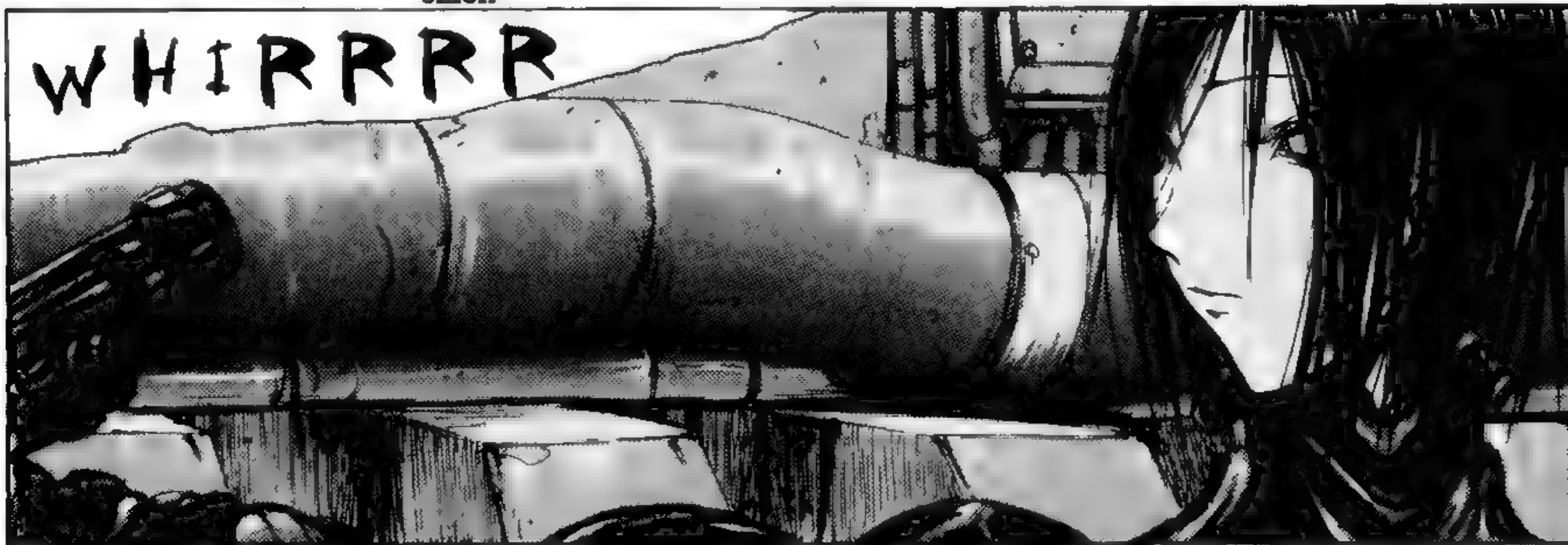
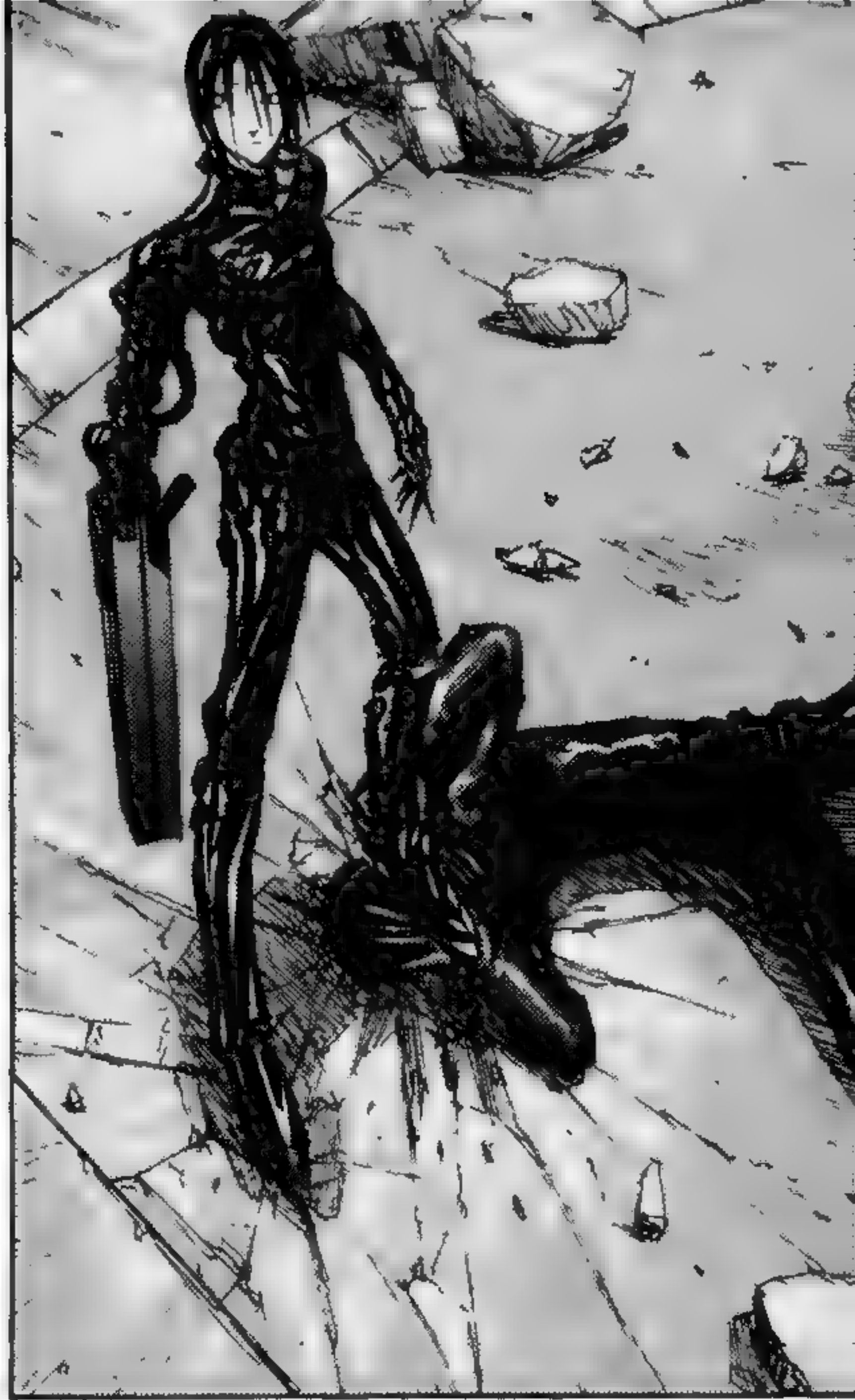


SPLAT



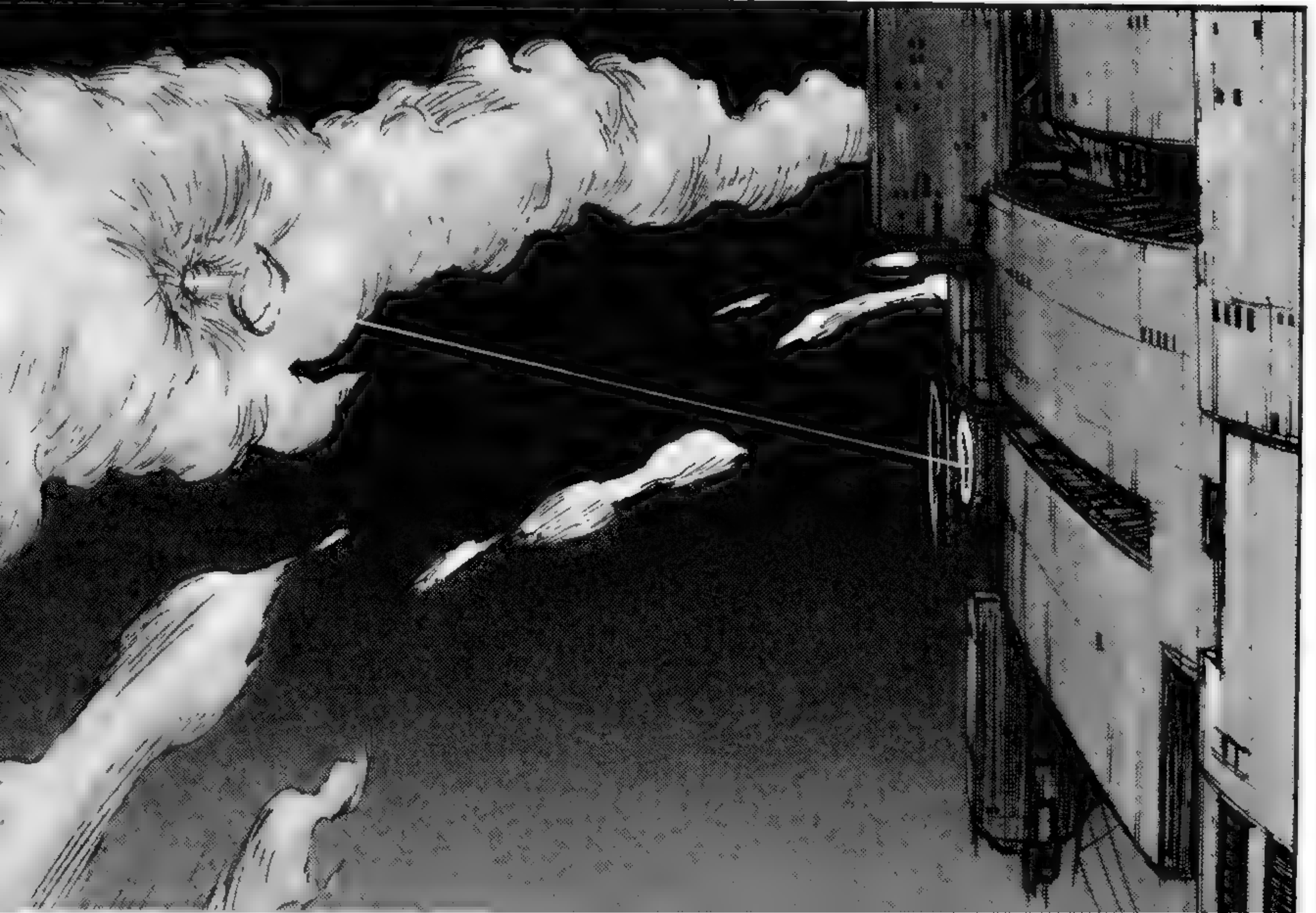


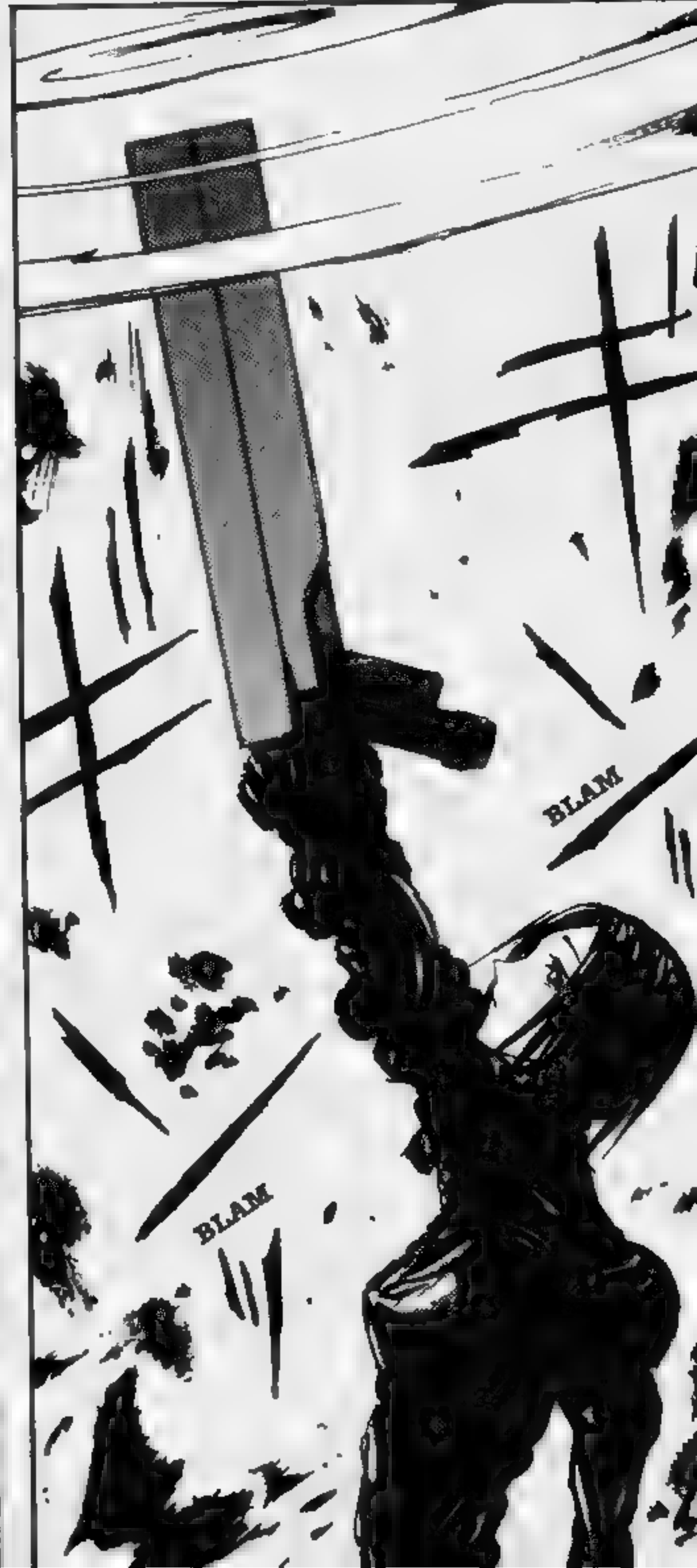
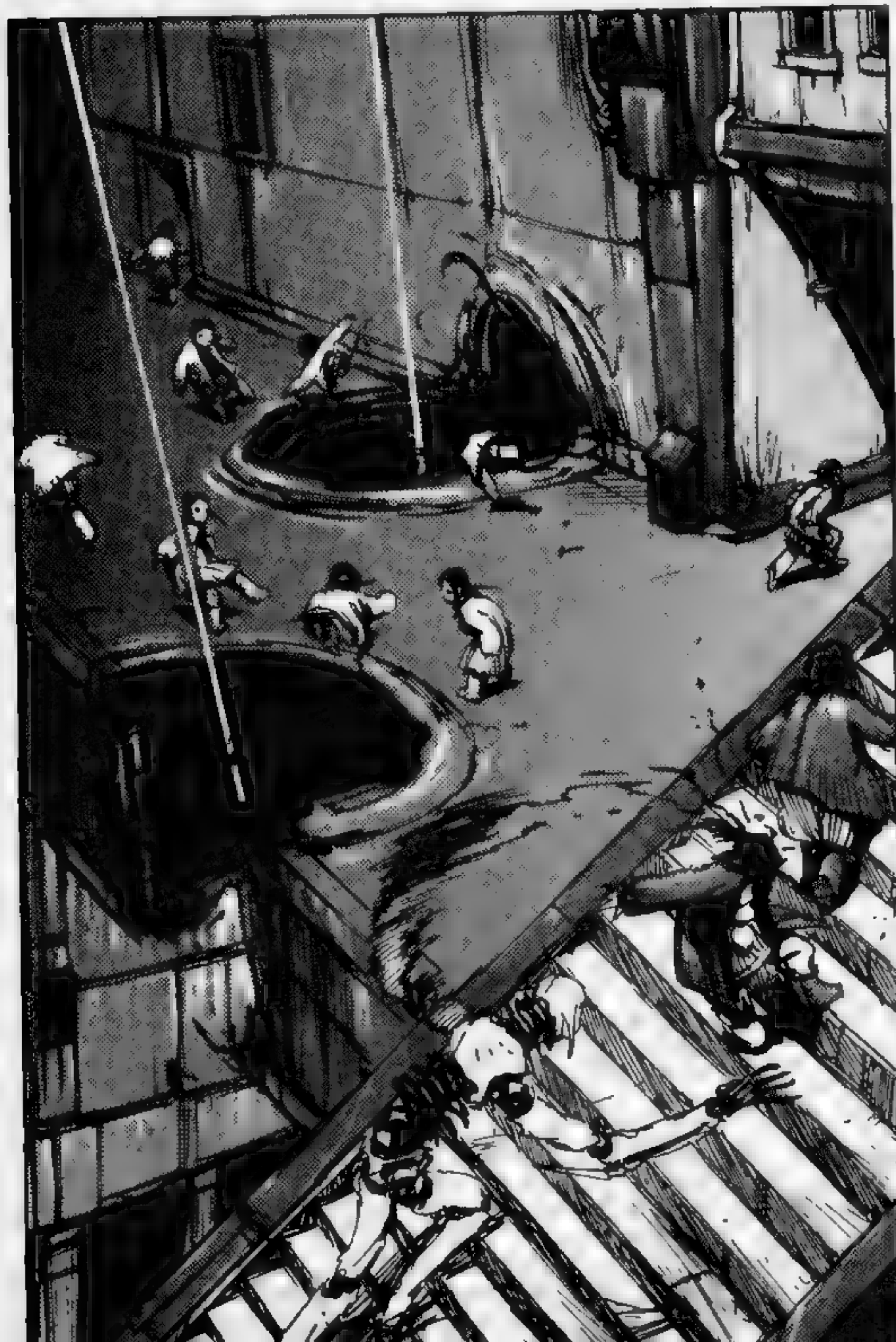
CLICK





ZUMM







RUMBLE







GYUN

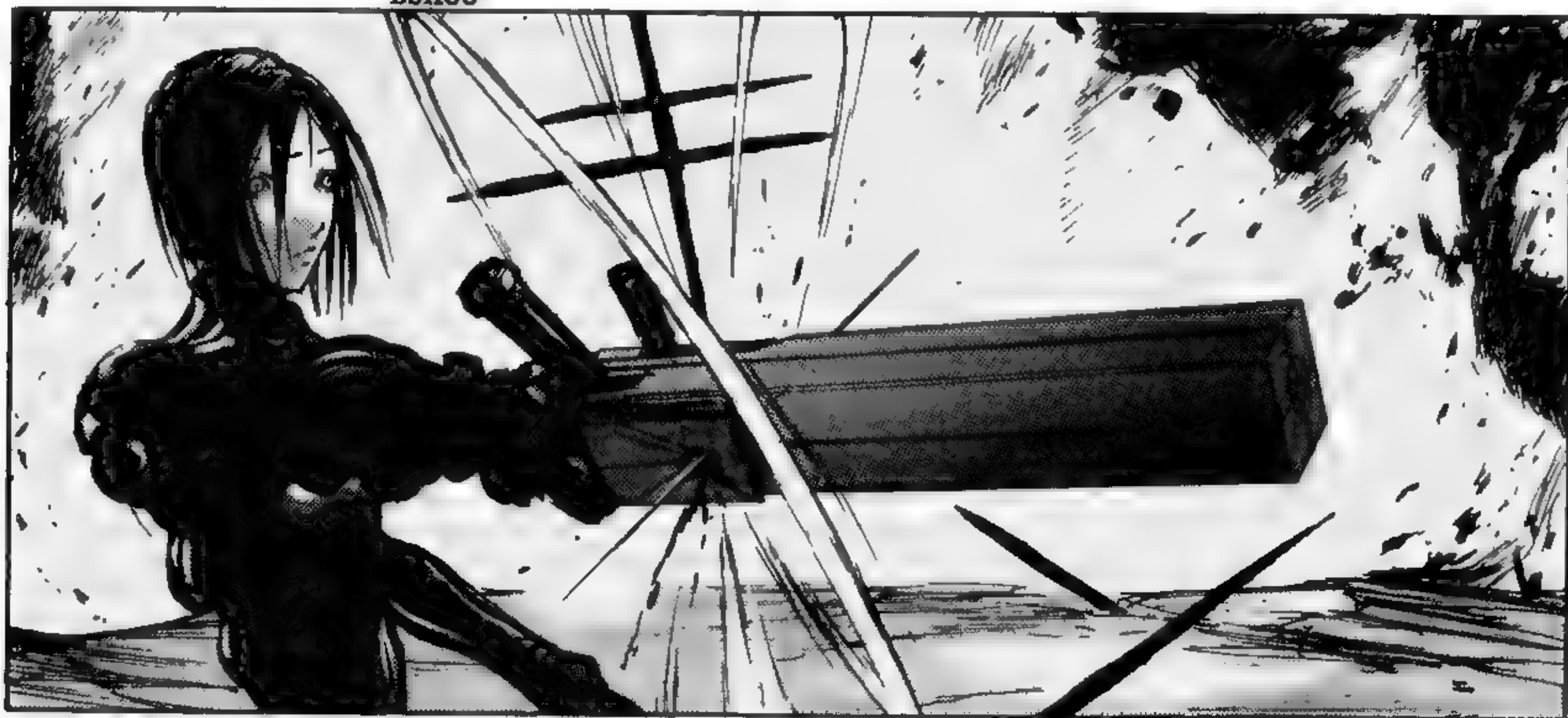


CRUNCH





BSHOO



CLANG



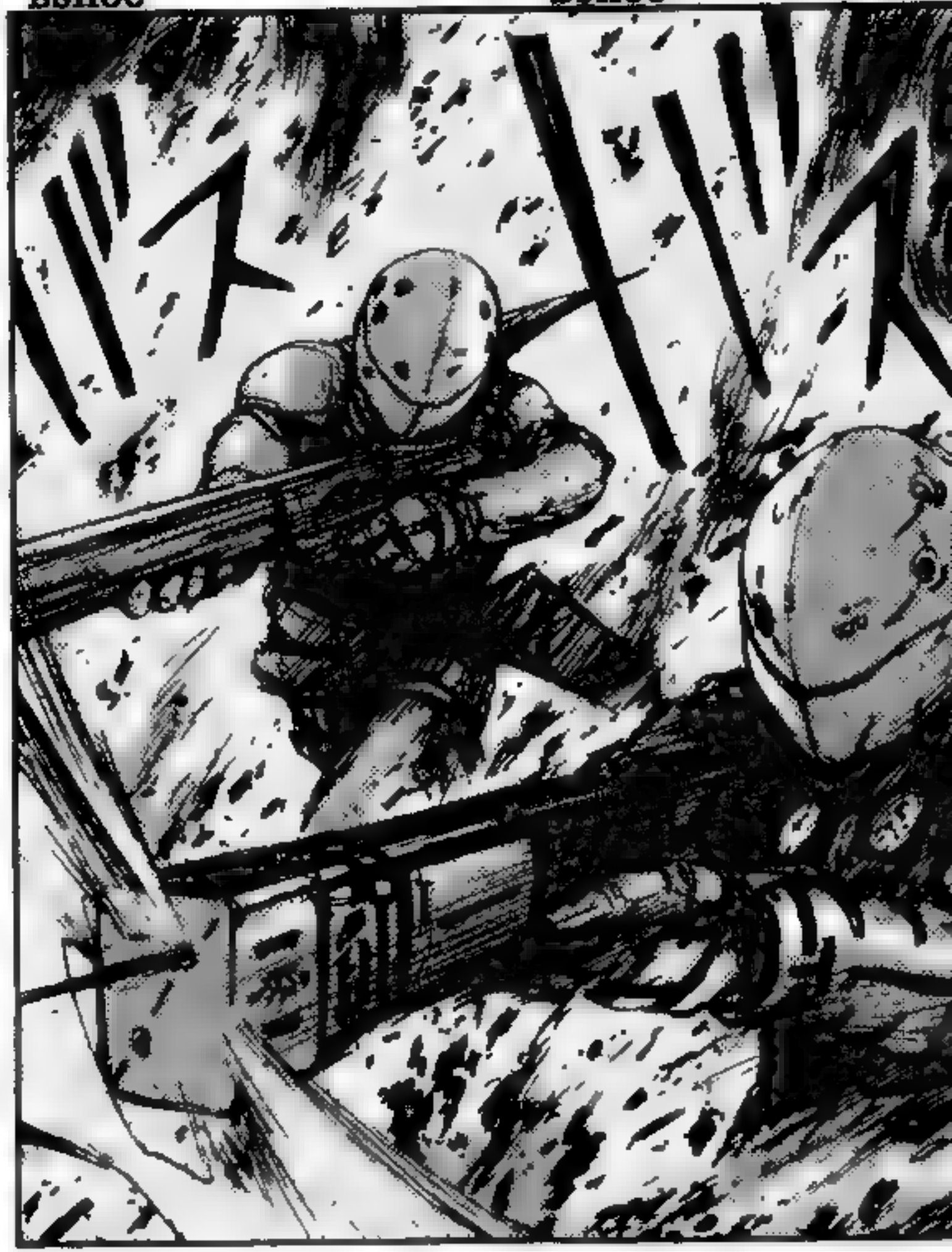
BLAM!

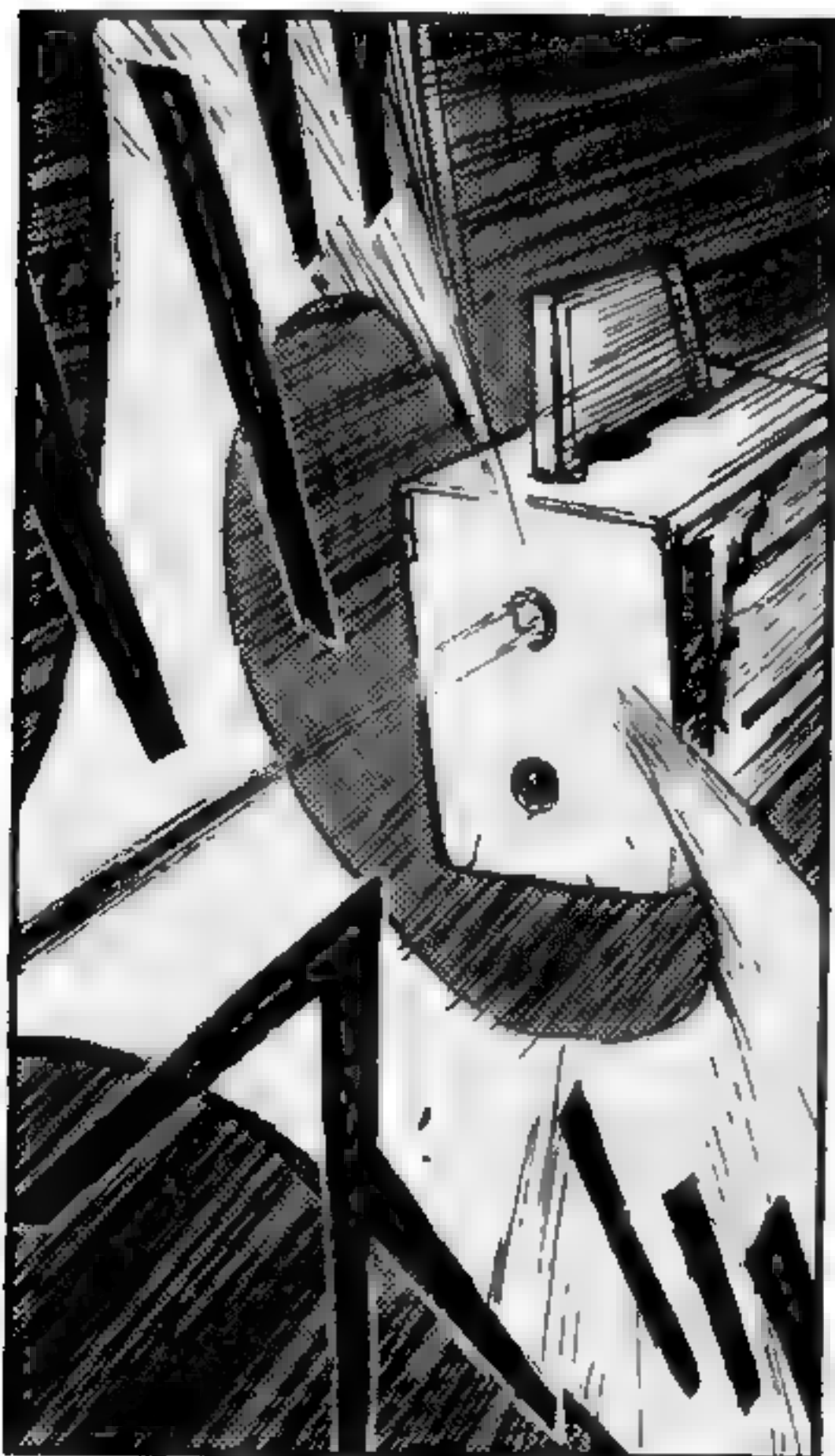




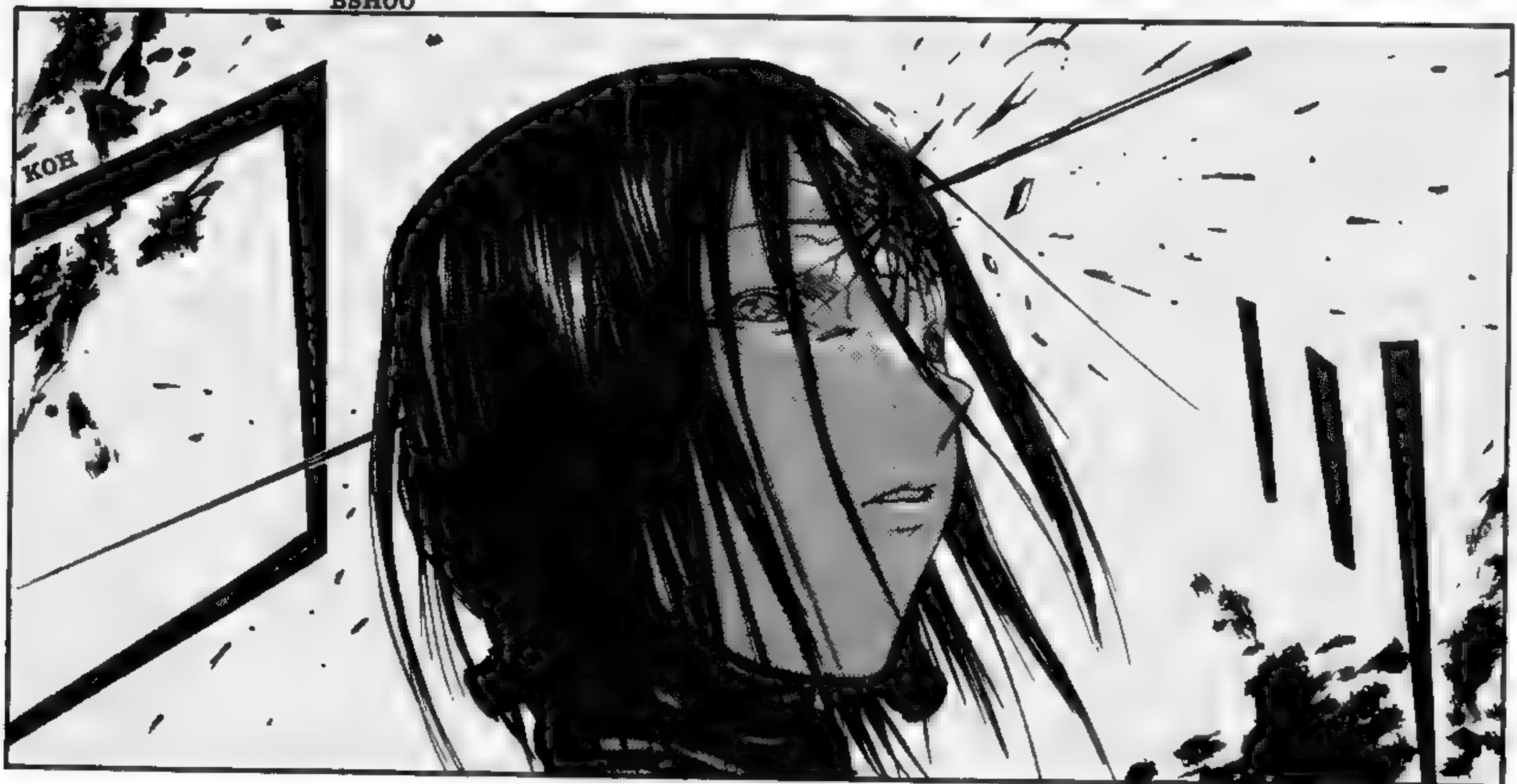
BSHOO

BSHOO

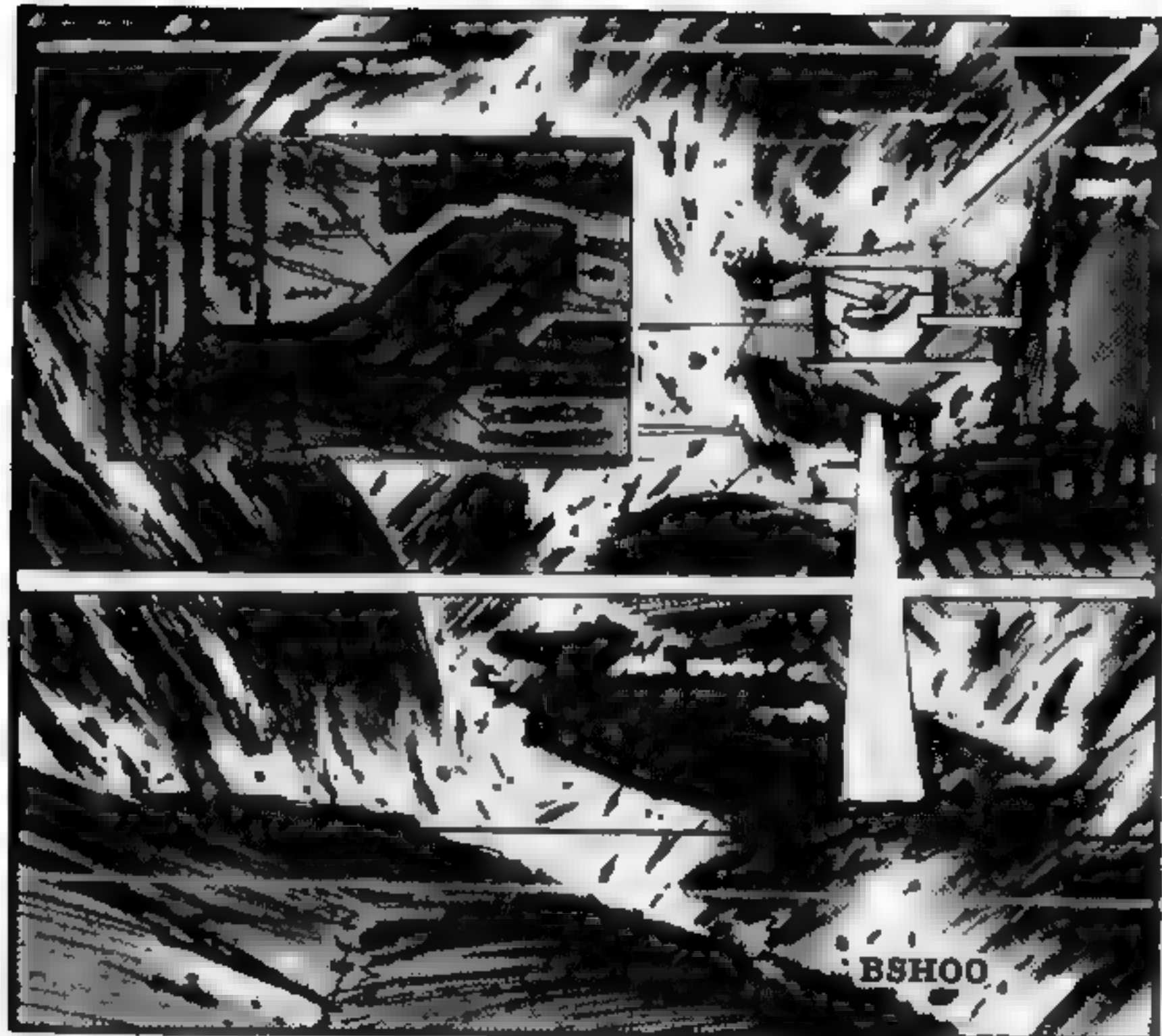




BSHOO







BSHOO BSHOO



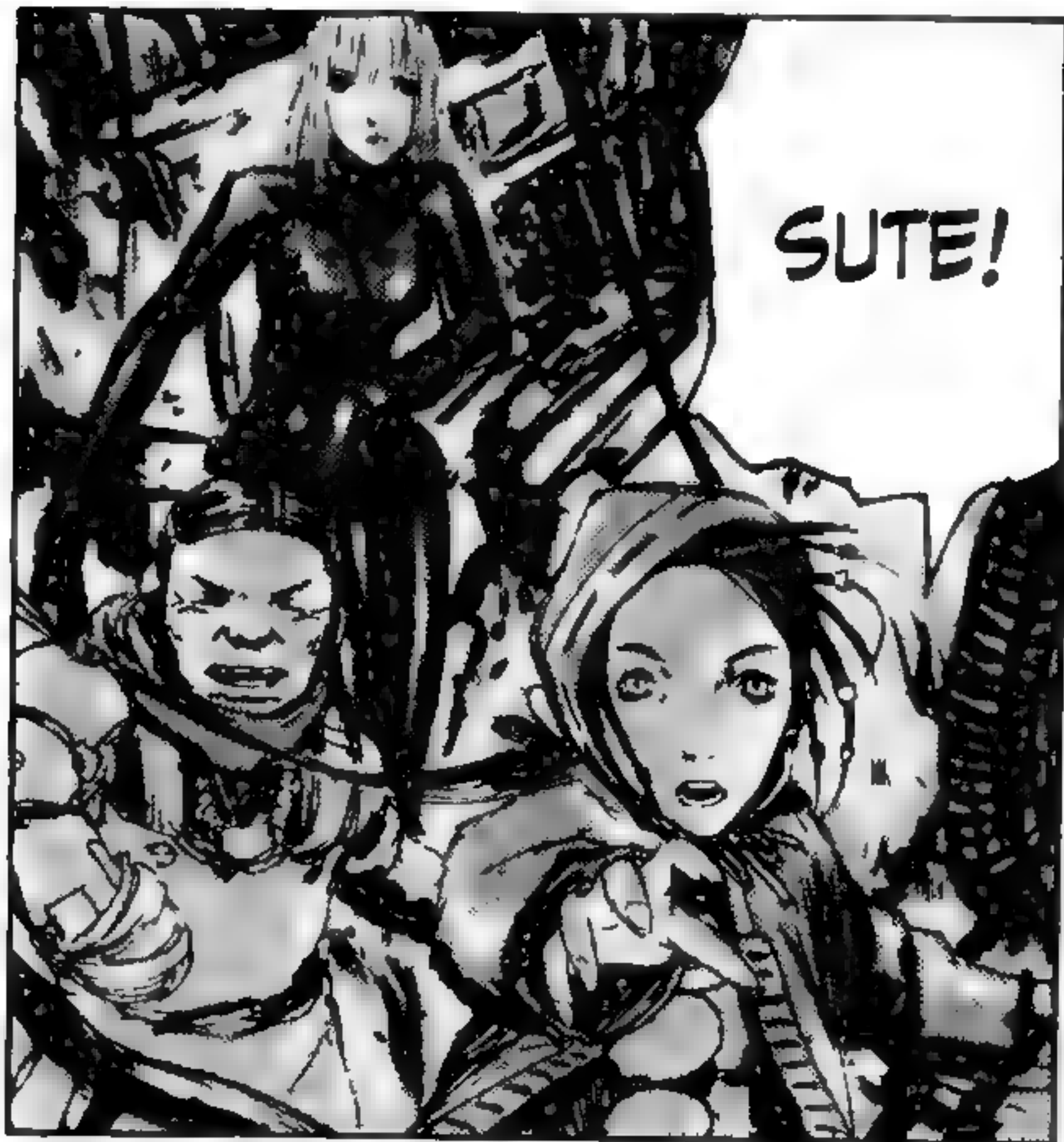
BASHUMM



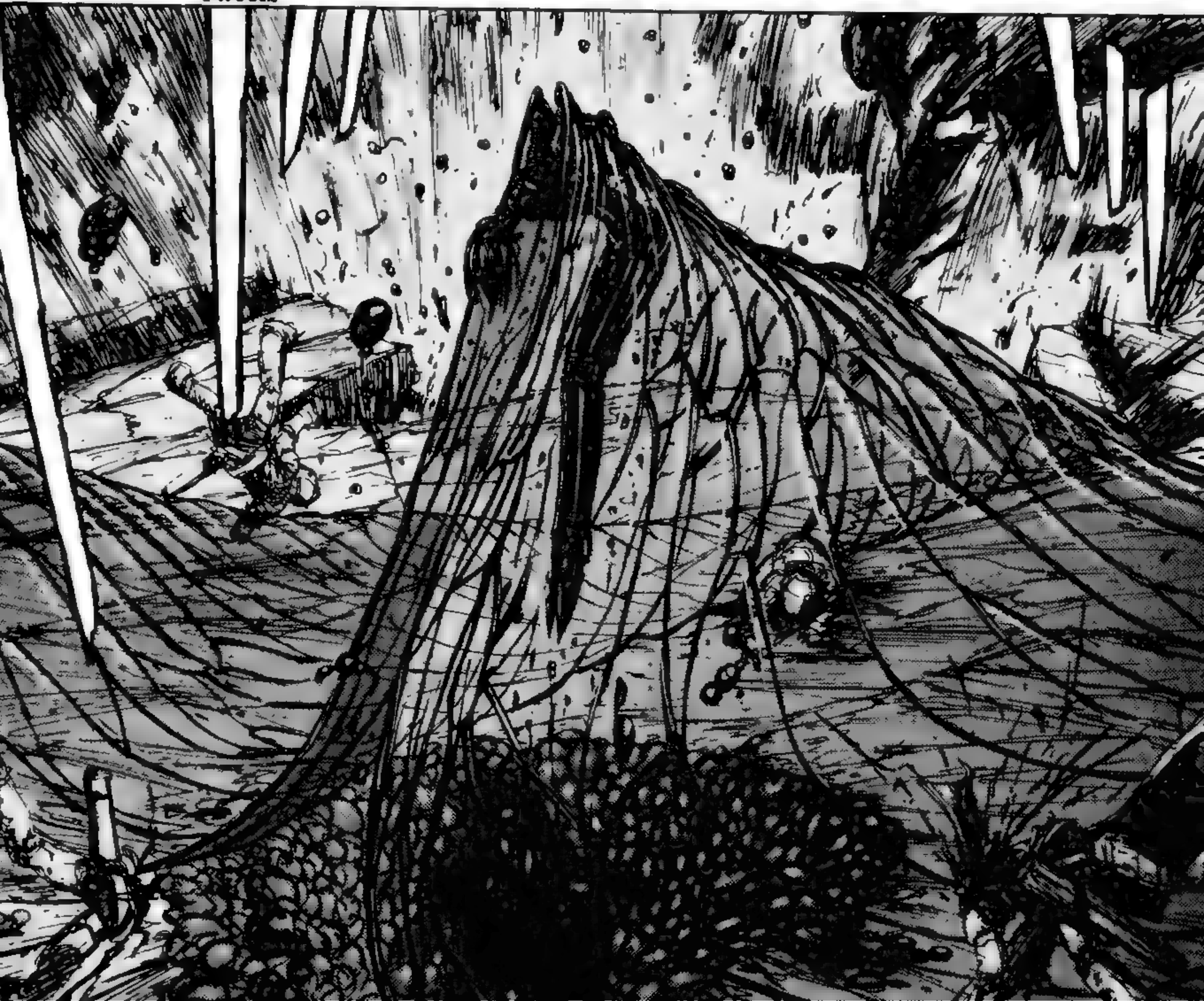
BA-BA-BA-BA-BA-BLAM







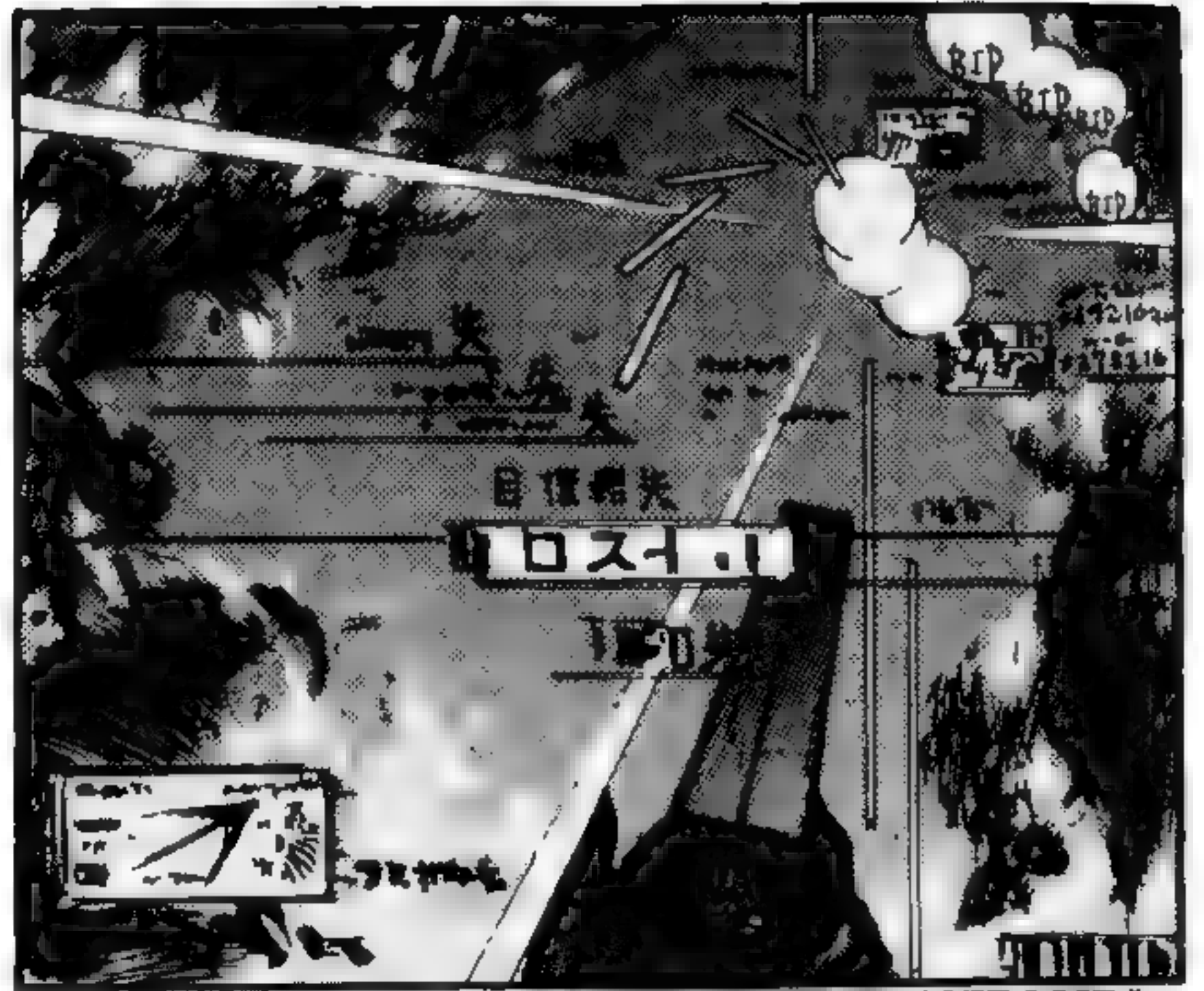
FWOOM



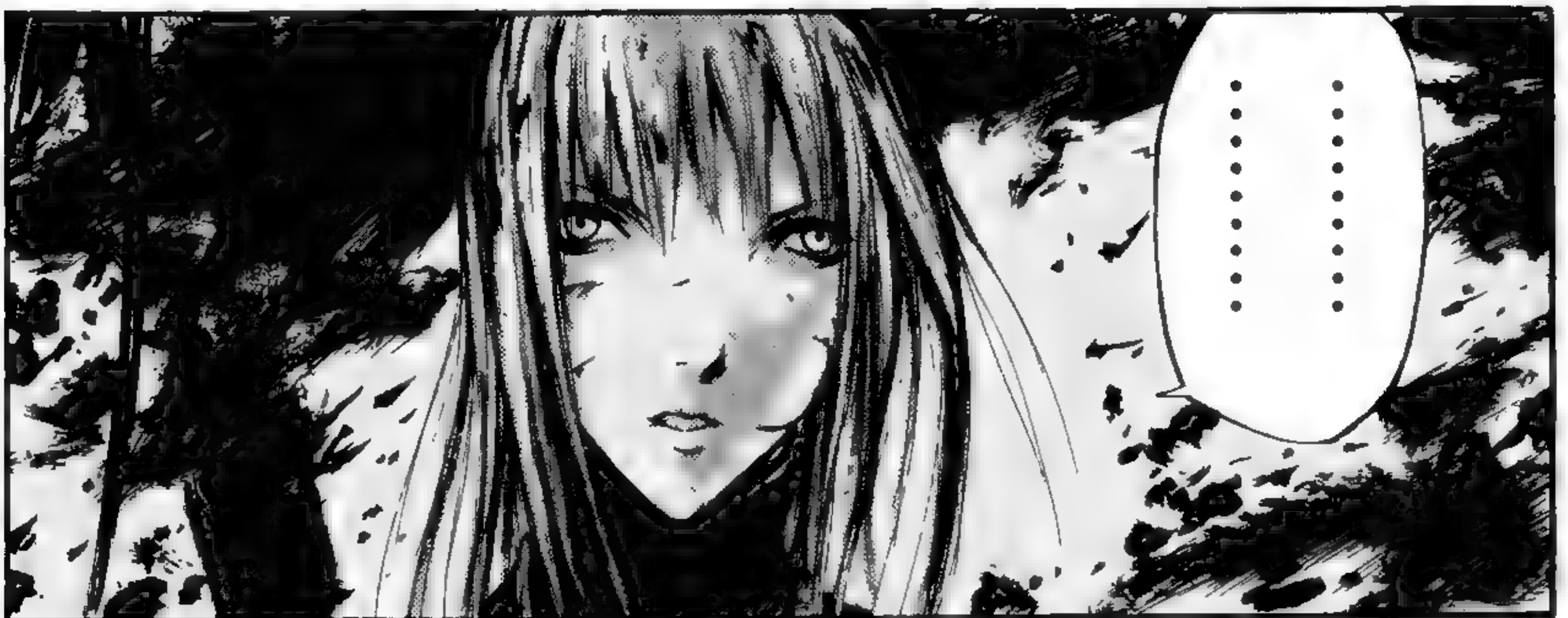


ARE
ONLY YOUR
FUNCTIONS
RESTORED?





KILLY'S RETINA NOW READS "TARGET LOST"



LOG.16@END

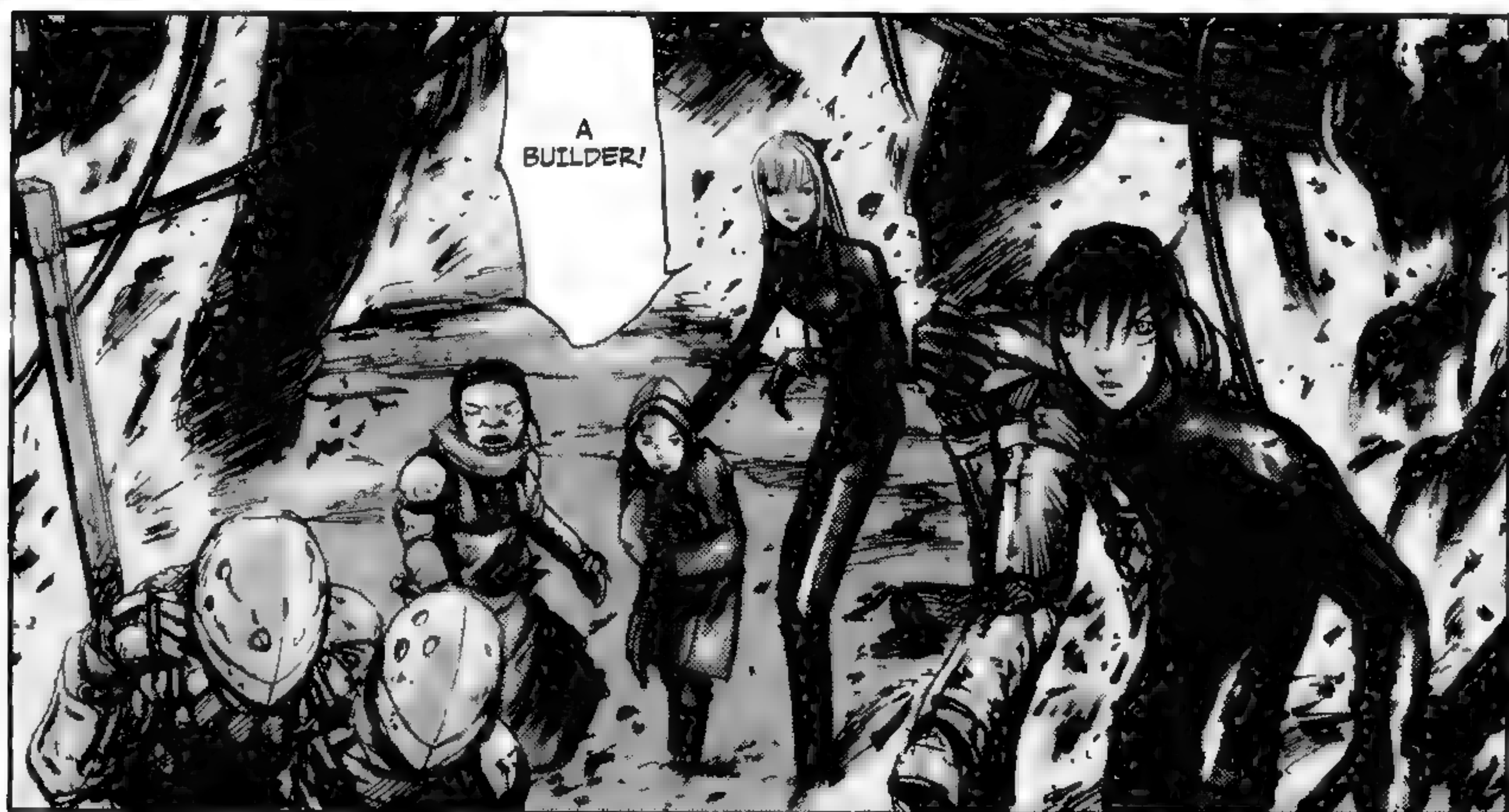


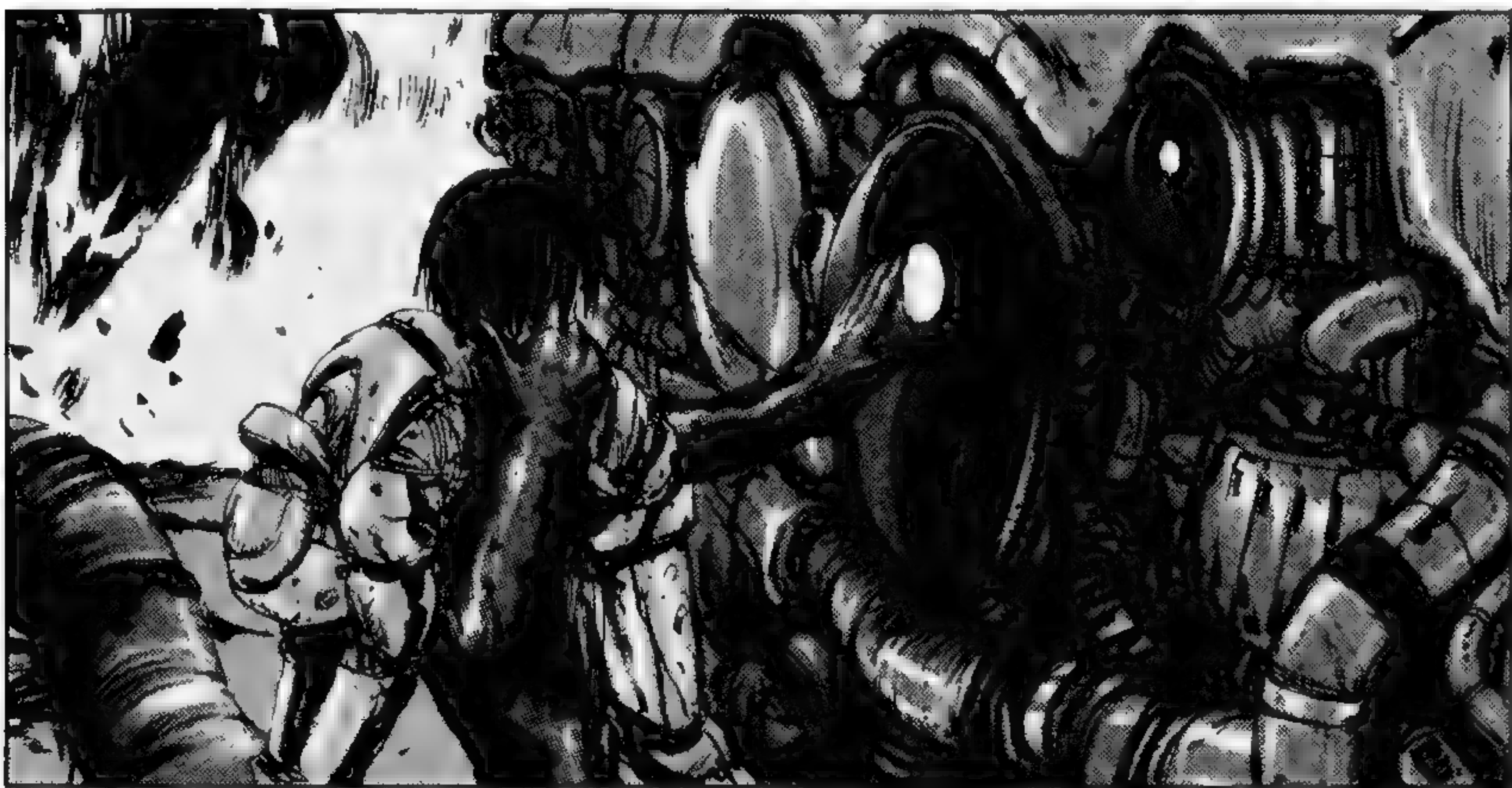
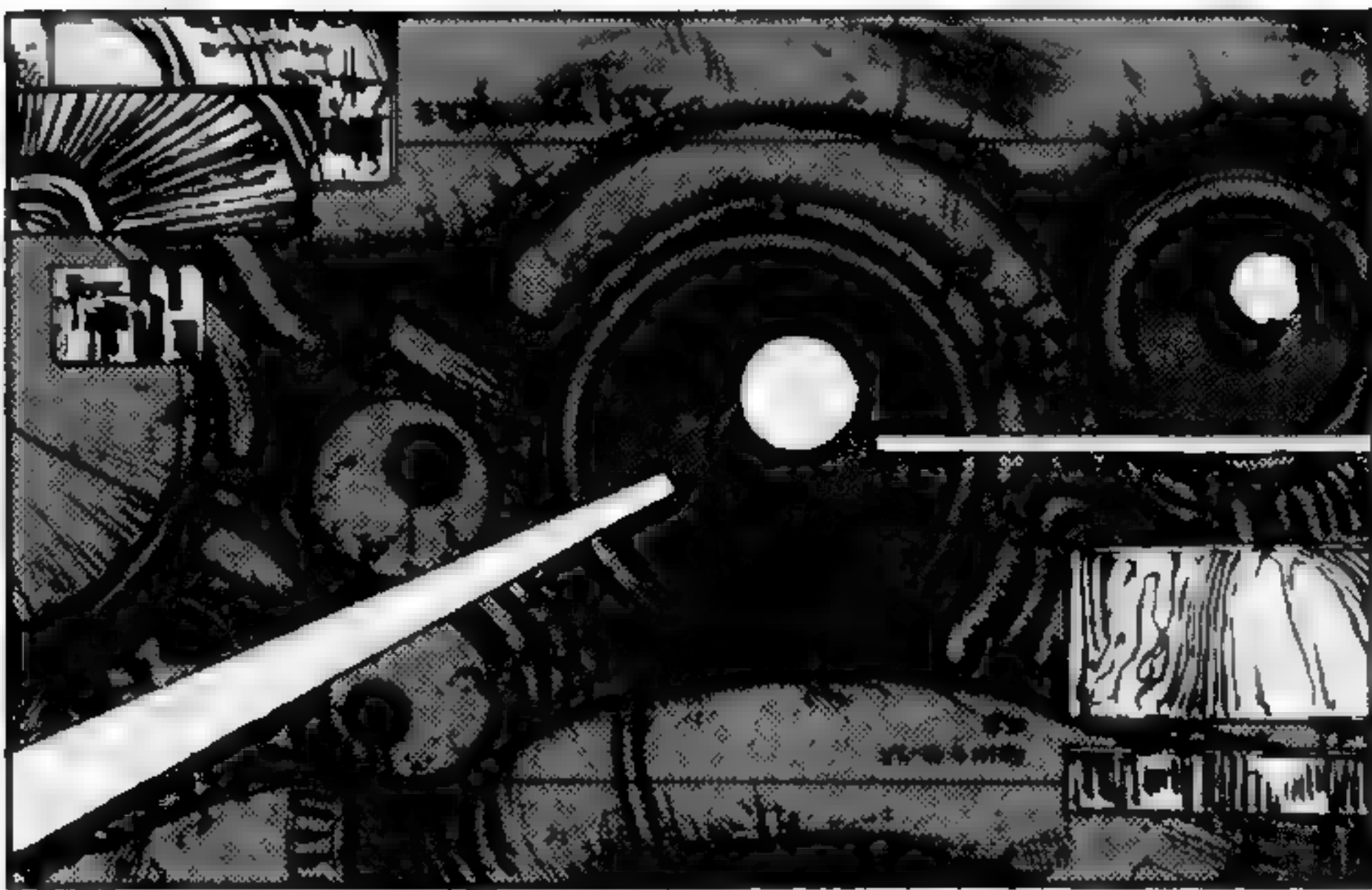


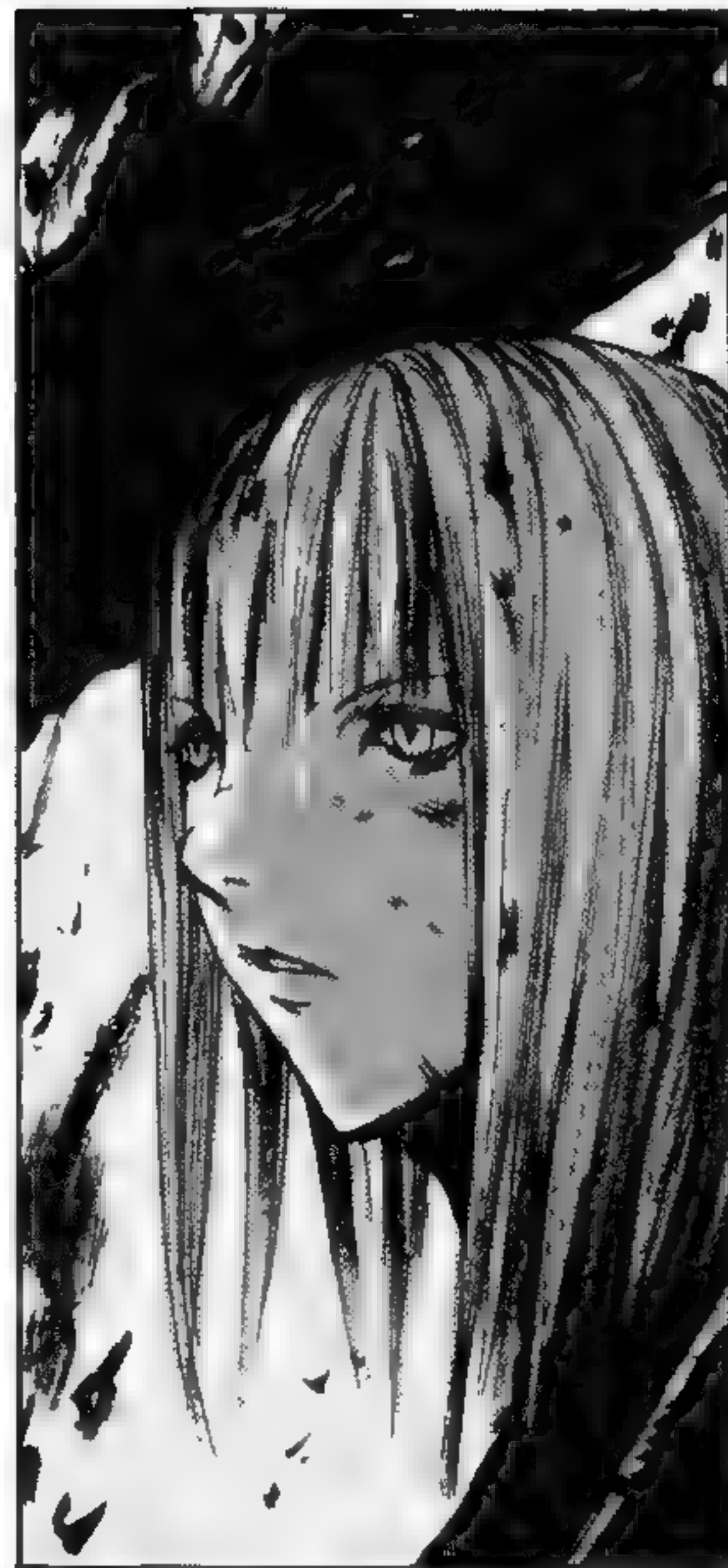


CRUMBLE

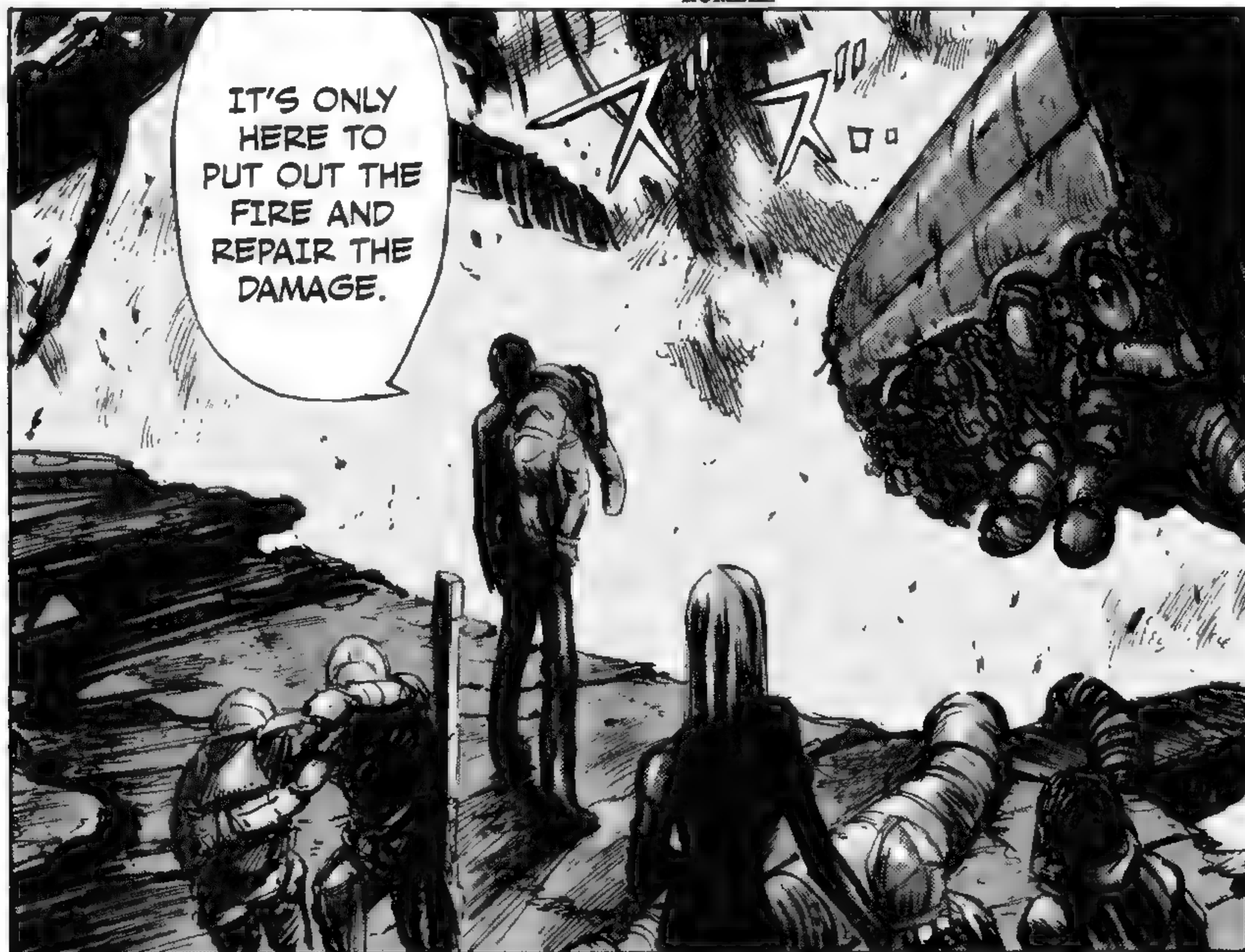


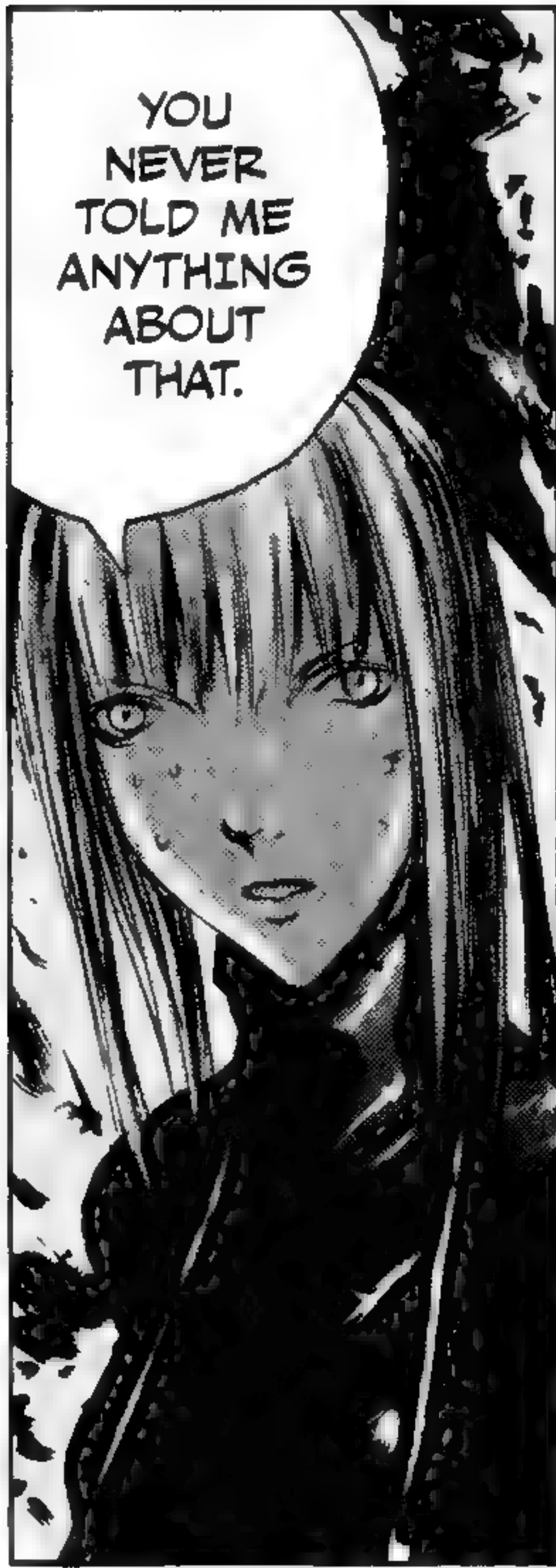






RUMBLE





YOU
NEVER
TOLD ME
ANYTHING
ABOUT
THAT.

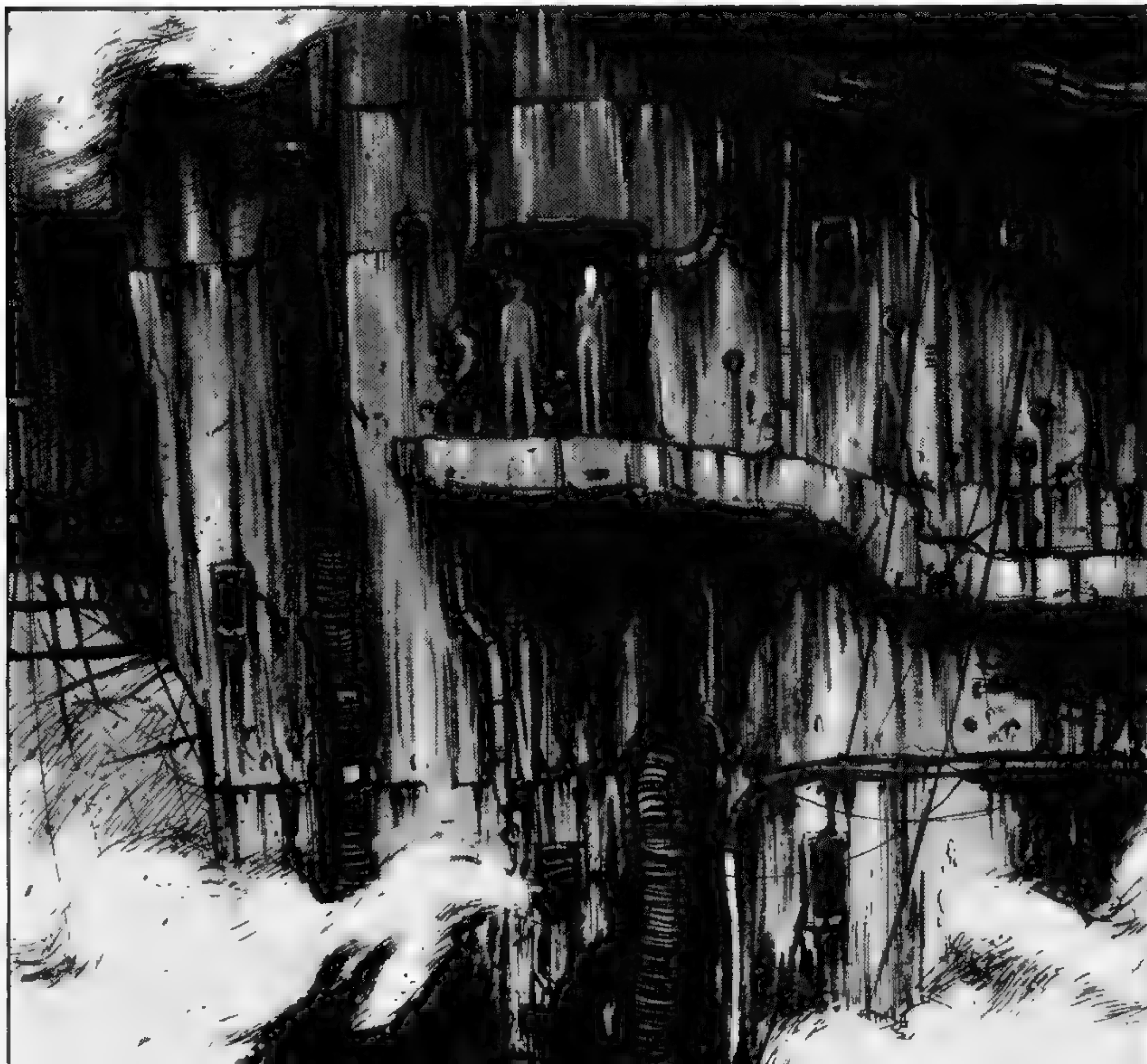


YOU
CAN TALK
WITH THE
BUILDERS
?!

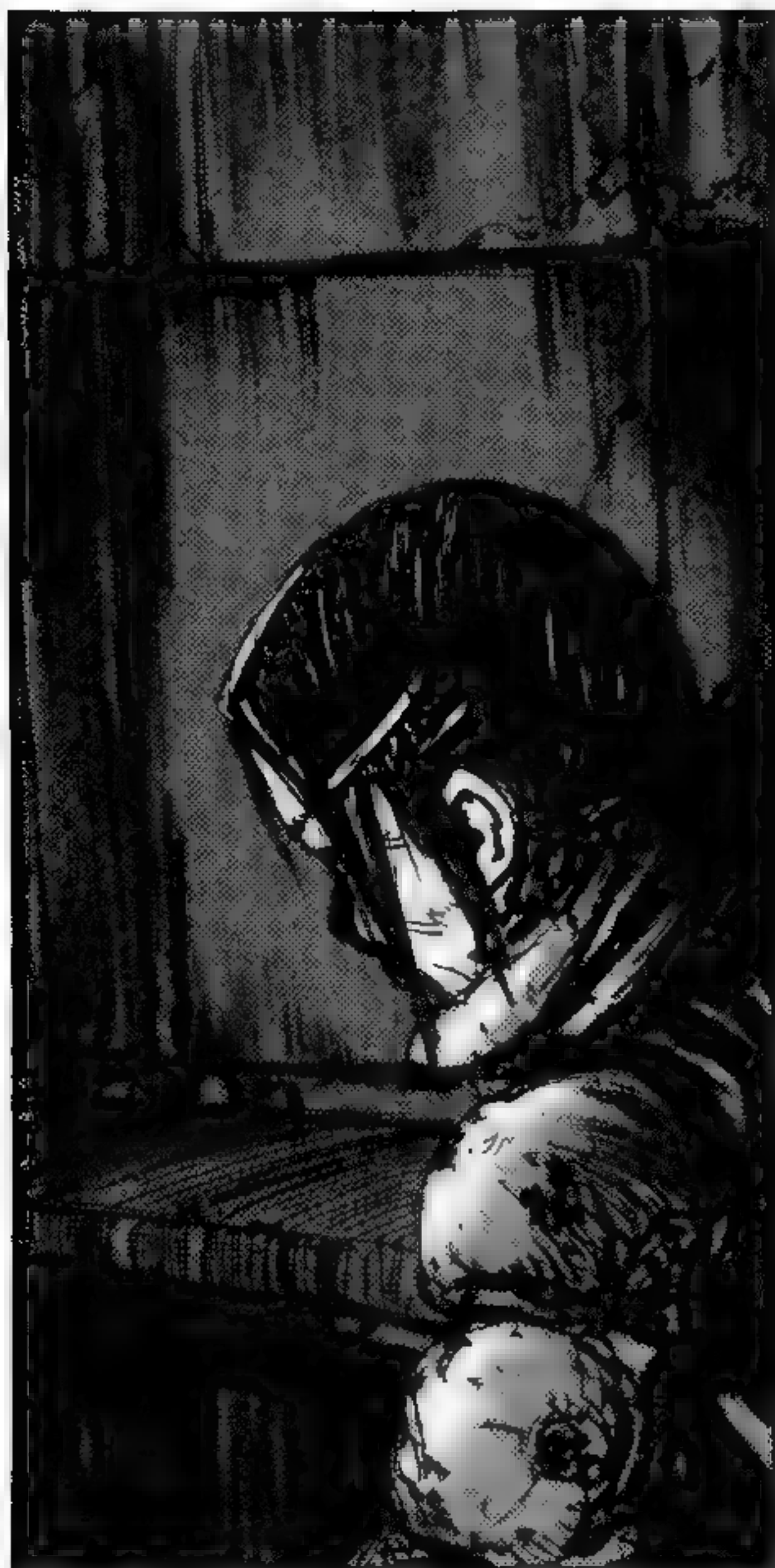












WE WON'T
SURVIVE THE
NEXT TIME,
POPS.

THEY KILLED
MOST OF THE
ELECTRO-
FISHERS IN
THAT ATTACK.



GO ON AND
TELL THE OTHERS
THAT WE'LL BE
EVACUATING
INTO TOHA HEAVY
INDUSTRIES AS
SOON AS WE'RE
READY.

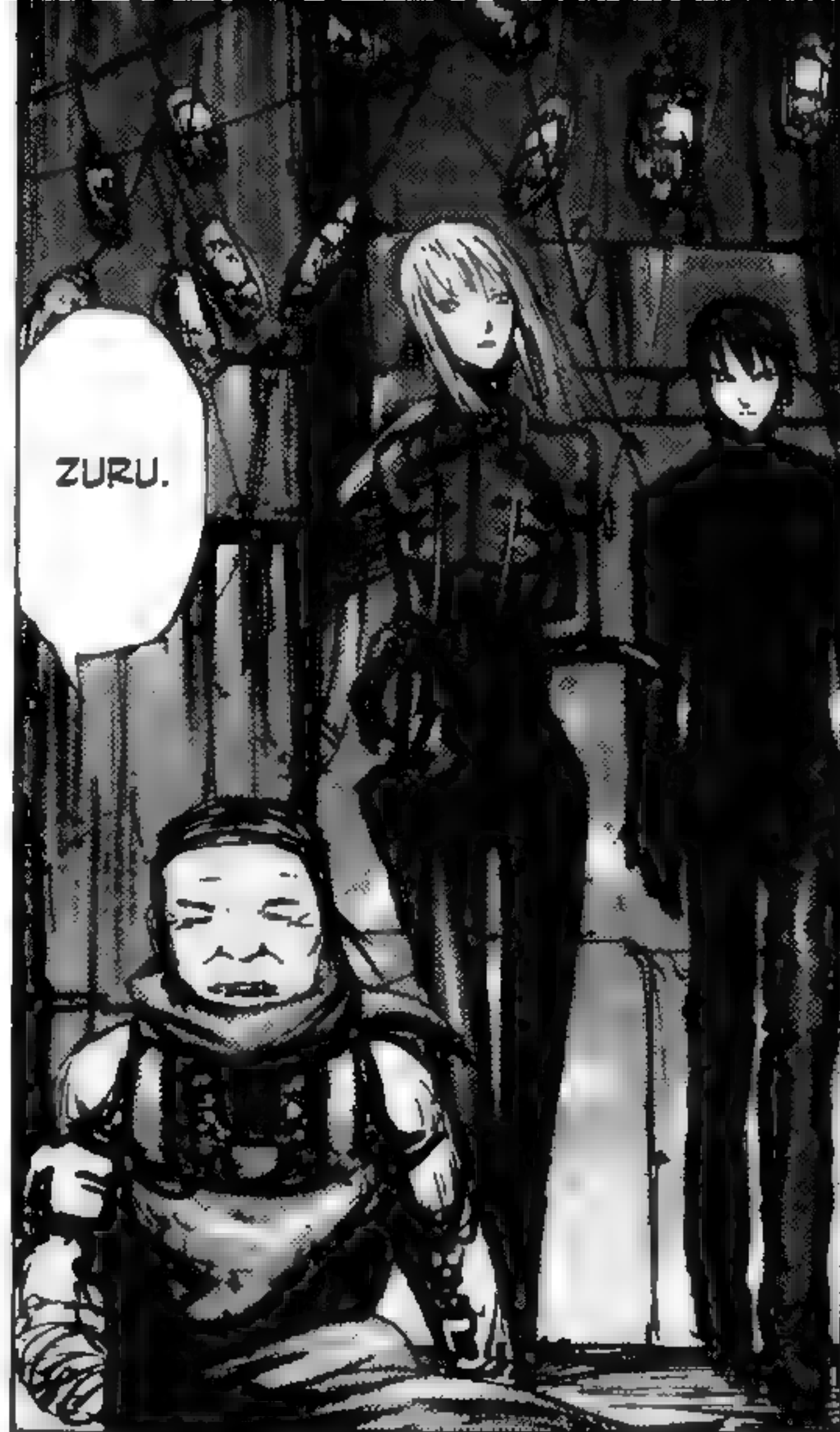
YER
RIGHT.





I'M
ALMOST
DONE.

I
KNOW.



ZURU.



WE USED
TO BE ABLE
TO RECREATE
WHOLE
PERSONALITIES
WITH THESE
THINGS...

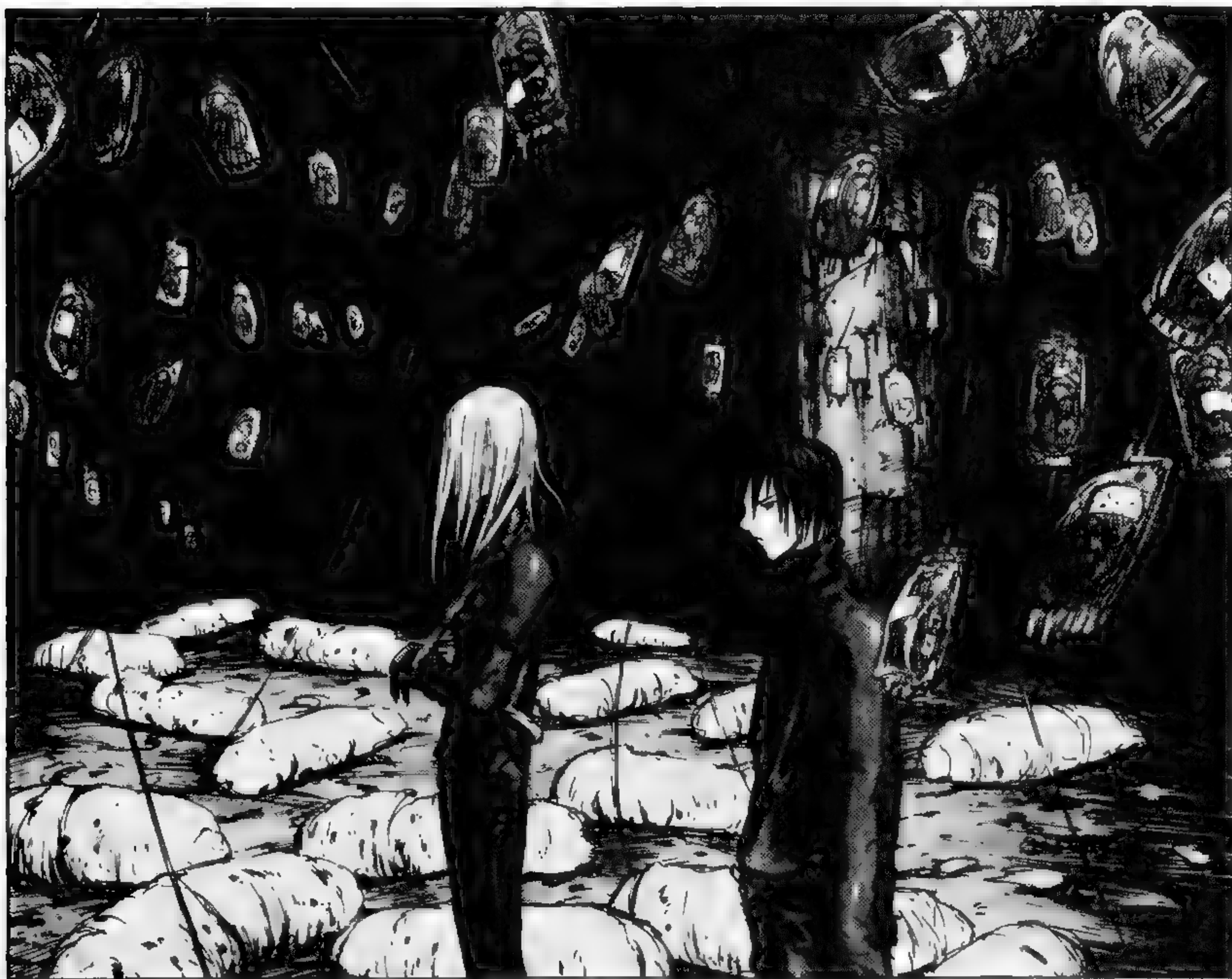
BUT
NOWADAYS,
THIS IS THE
BEST WE
CAN DO.

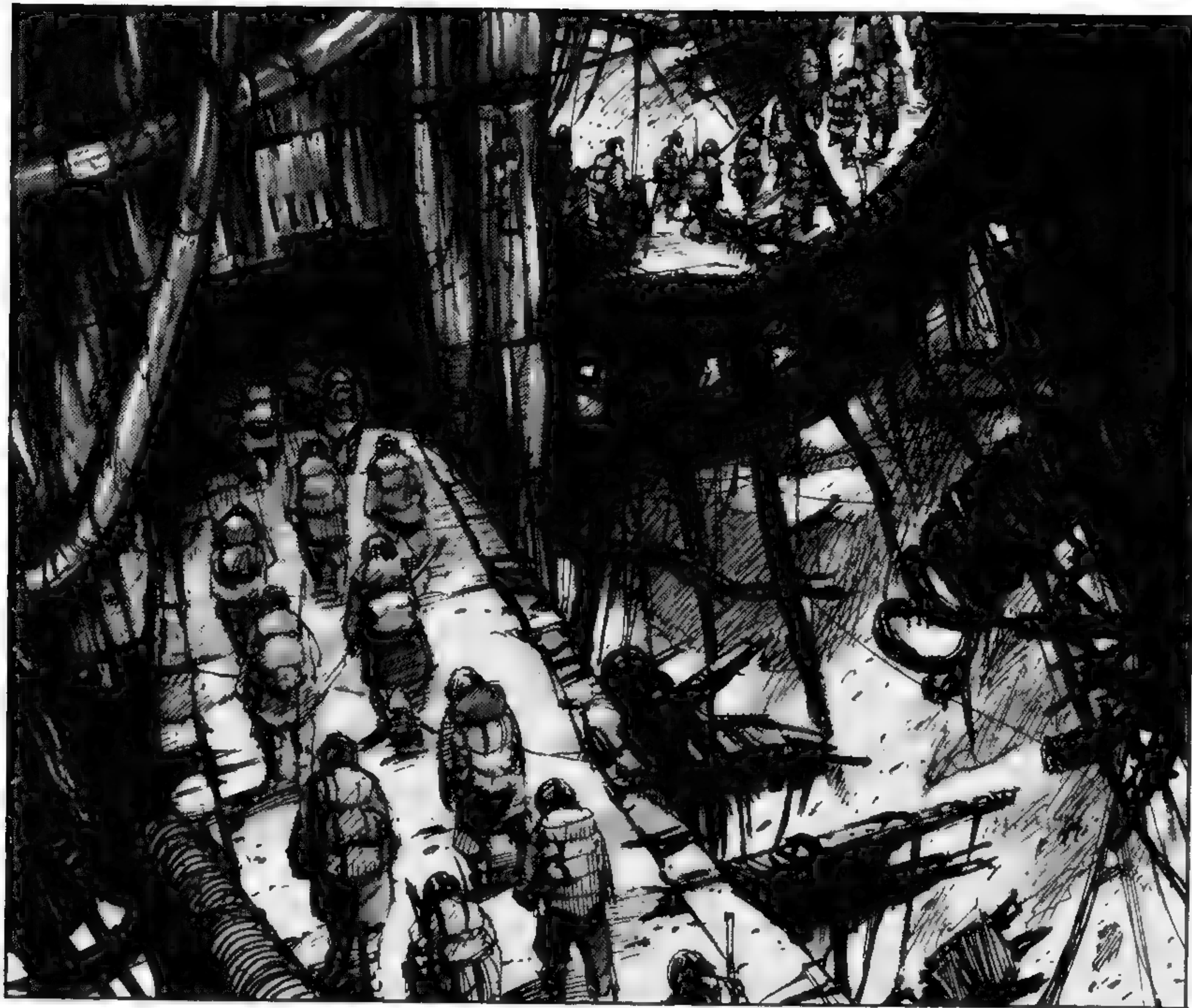


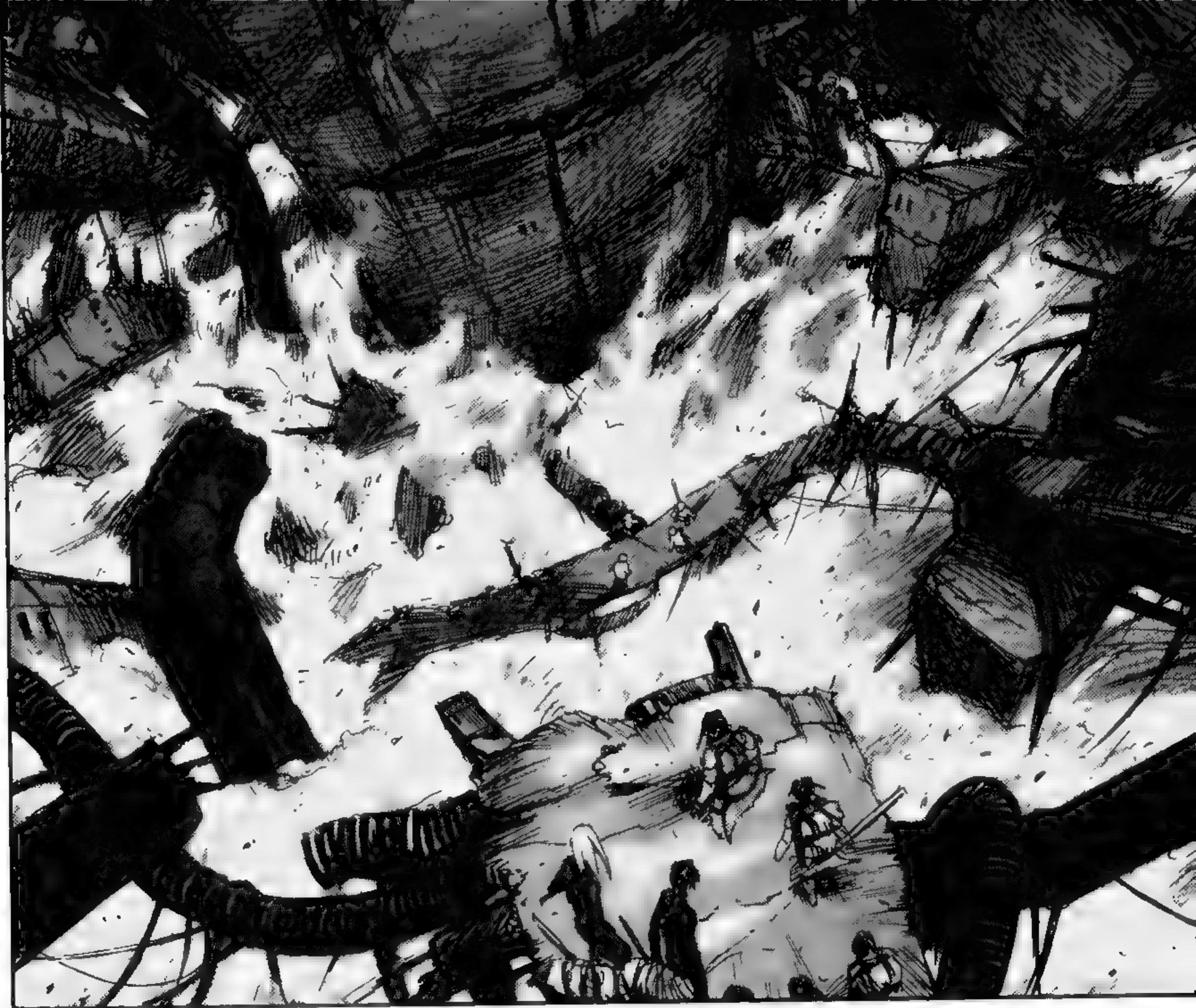
SO YOU
COLLECT
THEM.

POINT IS,
THEY'RE
IMPORTANT
TO US.

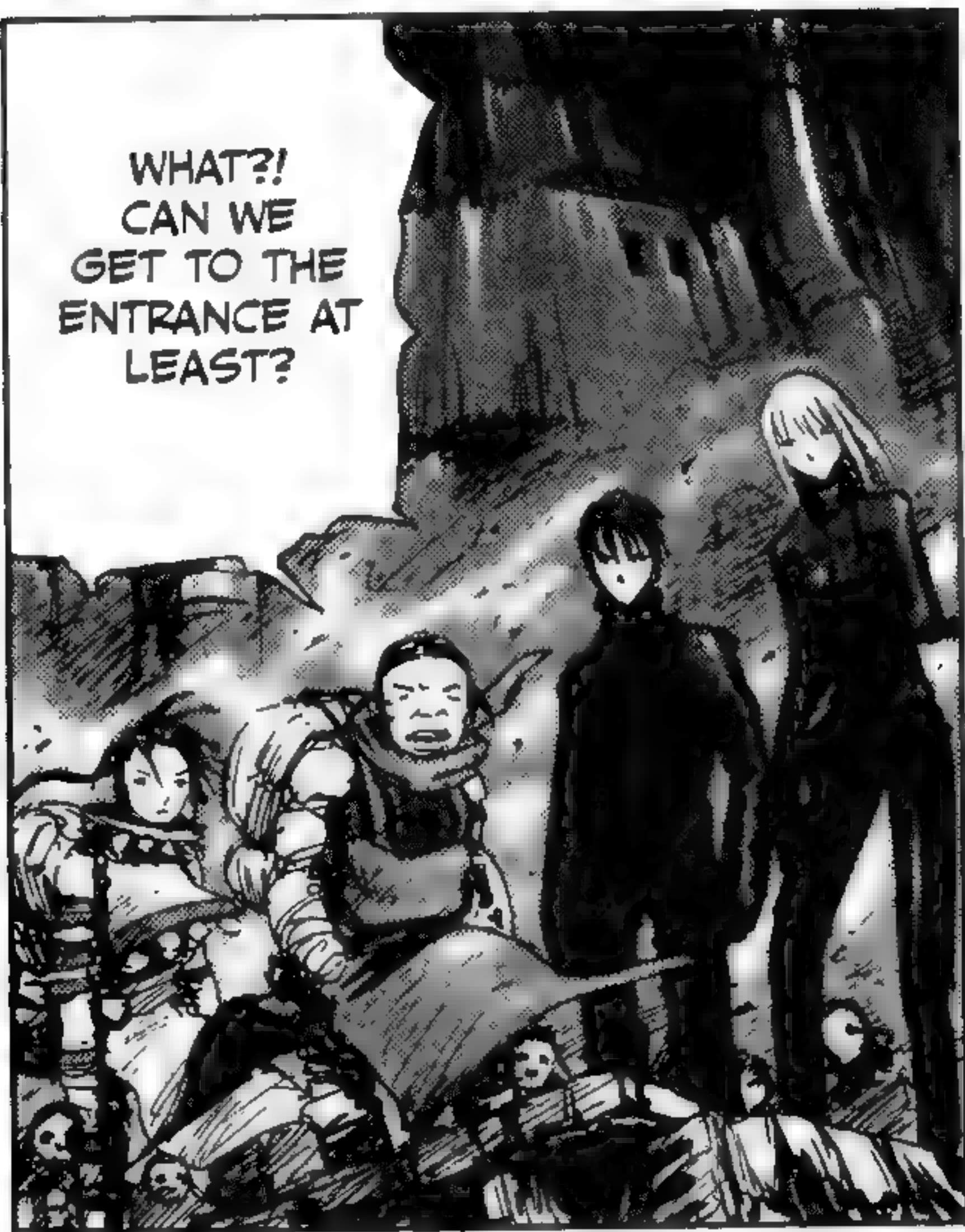
IF WE
PRESERVE
THEM, WE
MIGHT BE
ABLE TO
REVIVE
THEM IN THE
FUTURE.







WHAT?!
CAN WE
GET TO THE
ENTRANCE AT
LEAST?



HOW'S
IT LOOK
DOWN
THERE?

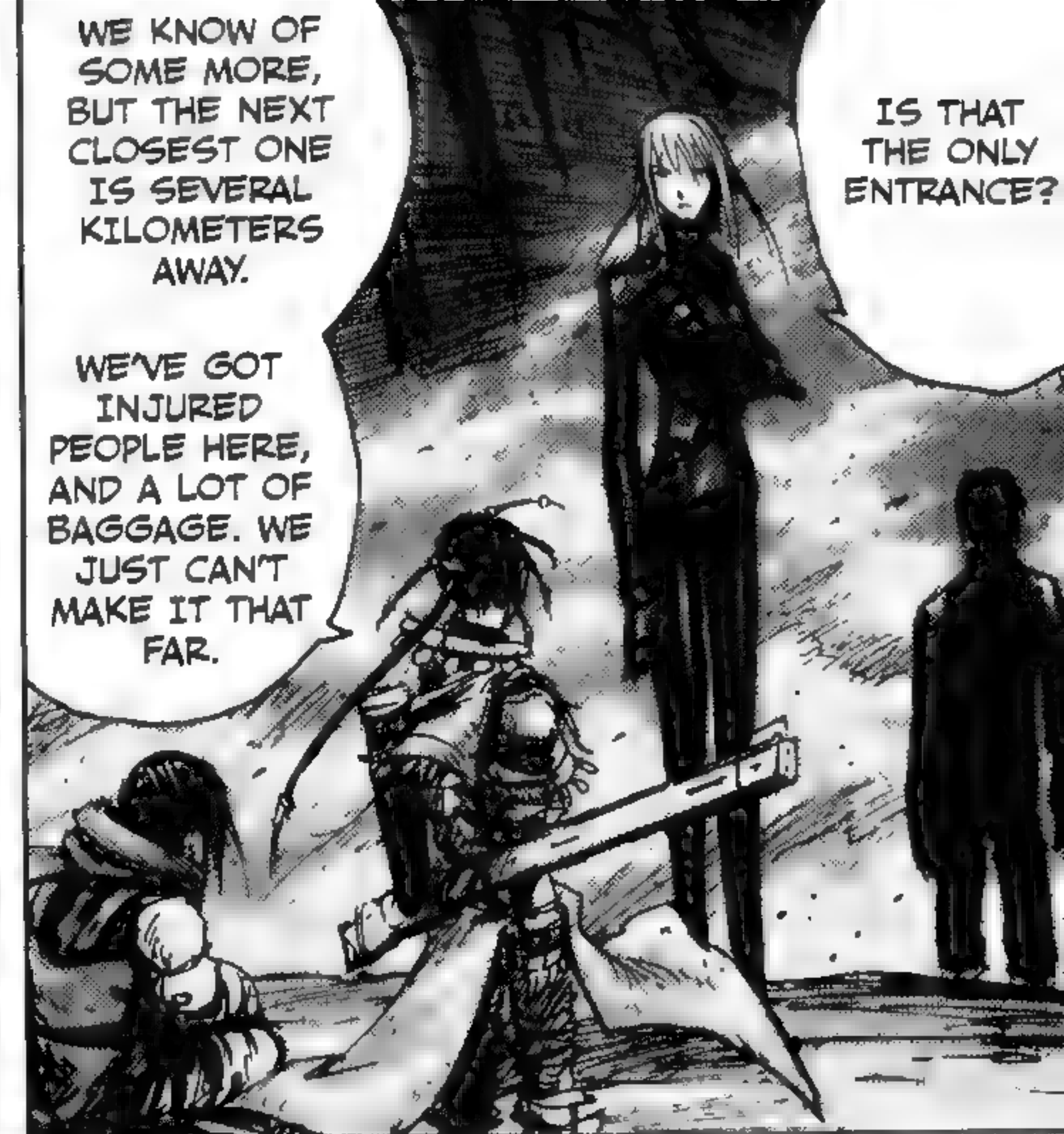


NOT GONNA
WORK. IT'S
STILL TOO
HOT TO GET
INSIDE.





KILLY,
CAN THOSE
BUILDERS
HELP US
OUT OVER
HERE?



WE KNOW OF
SOME MORE,
BUT THE NEXT
CLOSEST ONE
IS SEVERAL
KILOMETERS
AWAY.

WE'VE GOT
INJURED
PEOPLE HERE,
AND A LOT OF
BAGGAGE. WE
JUST CAN'T
MAKE IT THAT
FAR.

IS THAT
THE ONLY
ENTRANCE?



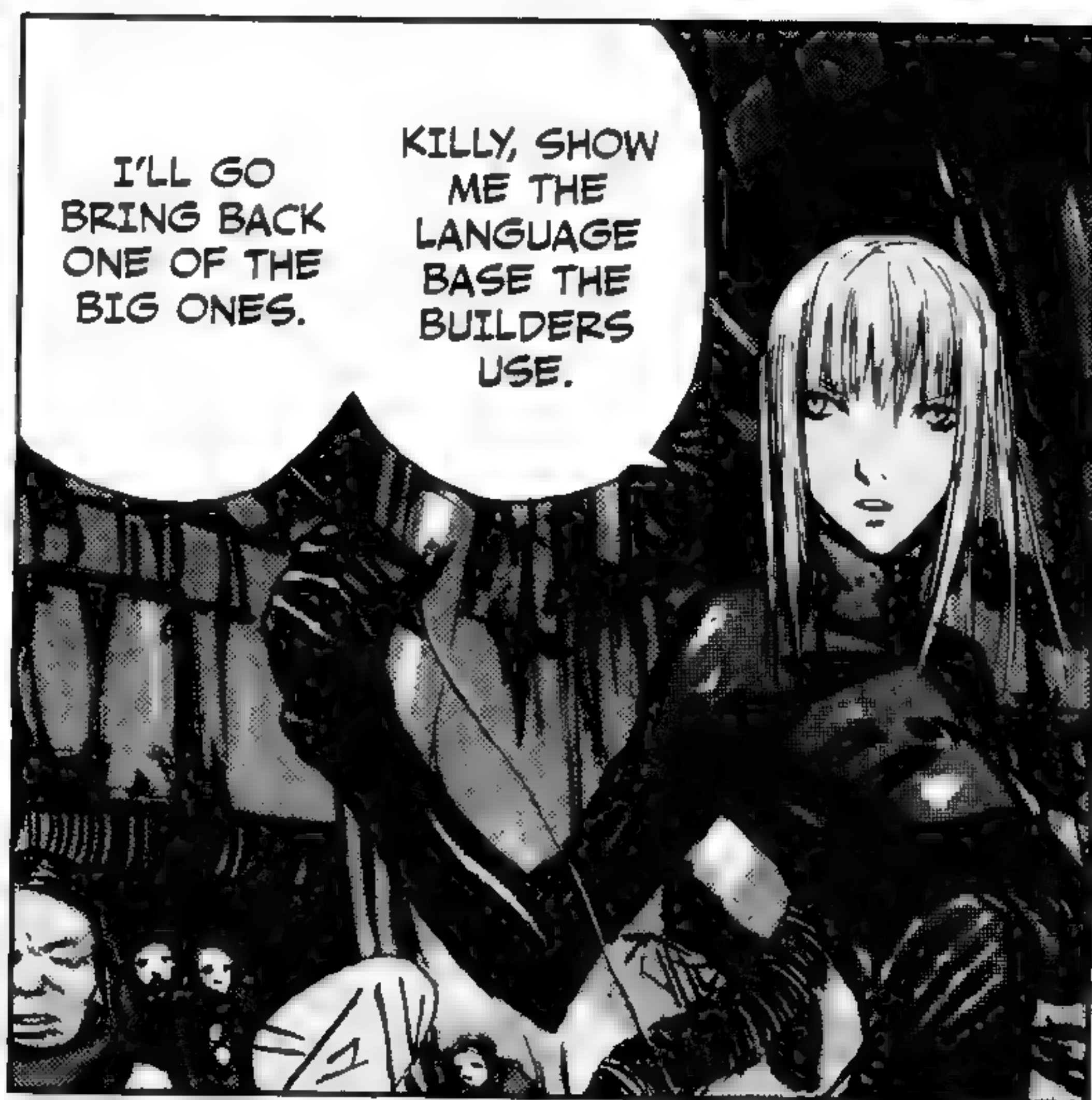
THEY'VE
ALREADY
STARTED
REPAIRING THE
DAMAGE, BUT
IT WILL TAKE
ANOTHER 2,160
HOURS TO
FINISH.



OH
WELL...



EVEN A GREAT
BIG BUILDER
LIKE THAT ONE
CAN ONLY WORK
SO FAST, I
GUESS.



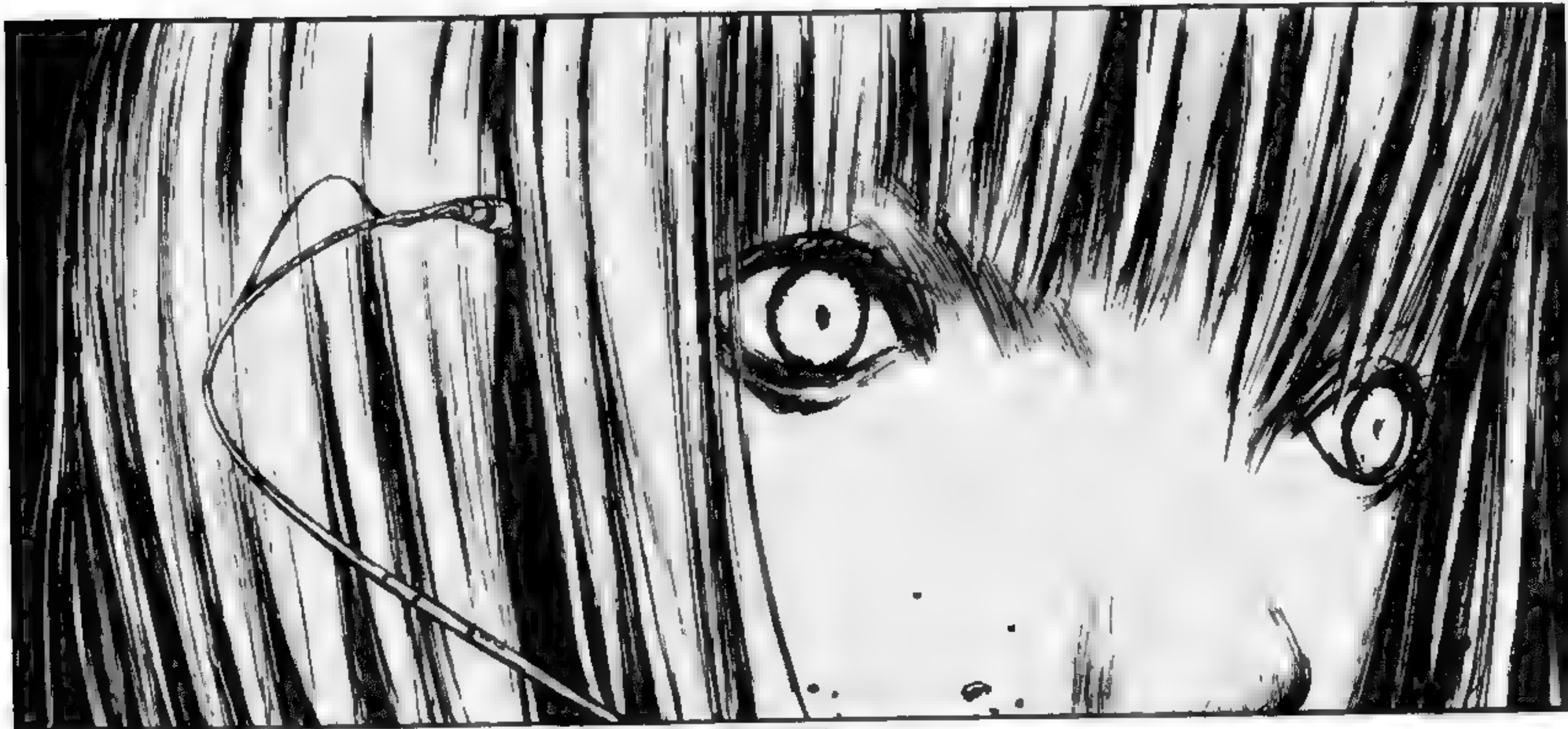
I'LL GO
BRING BACK
ONE OF THE
BIG ONES.

KILLY, SHOW
ME THE
LANGUAGE
BASE THE
BUILDERS
USE.

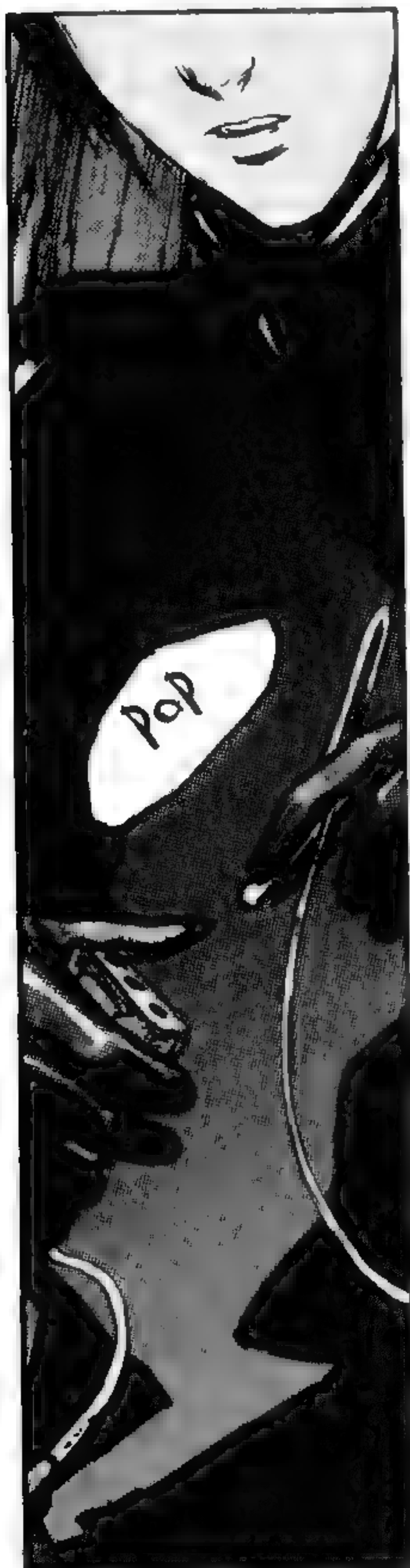


IT WON'T
TAKE
LONG IF I
USE THE
MONORAIL.

ARE YOU
REALLY
GONNA GO
BACK DOWN
THERE,
CIBO?

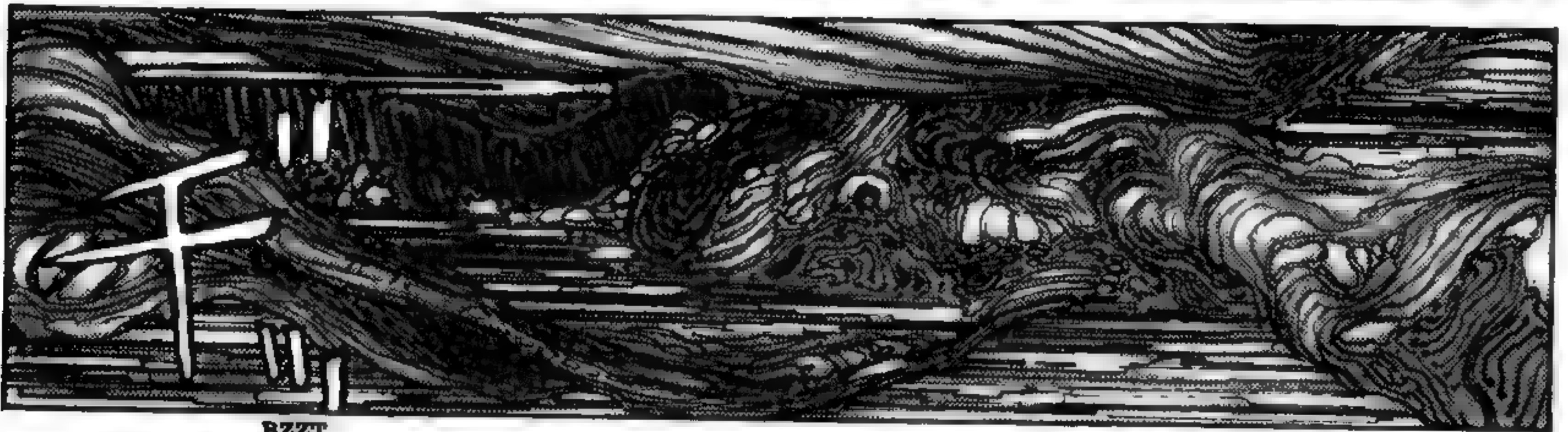
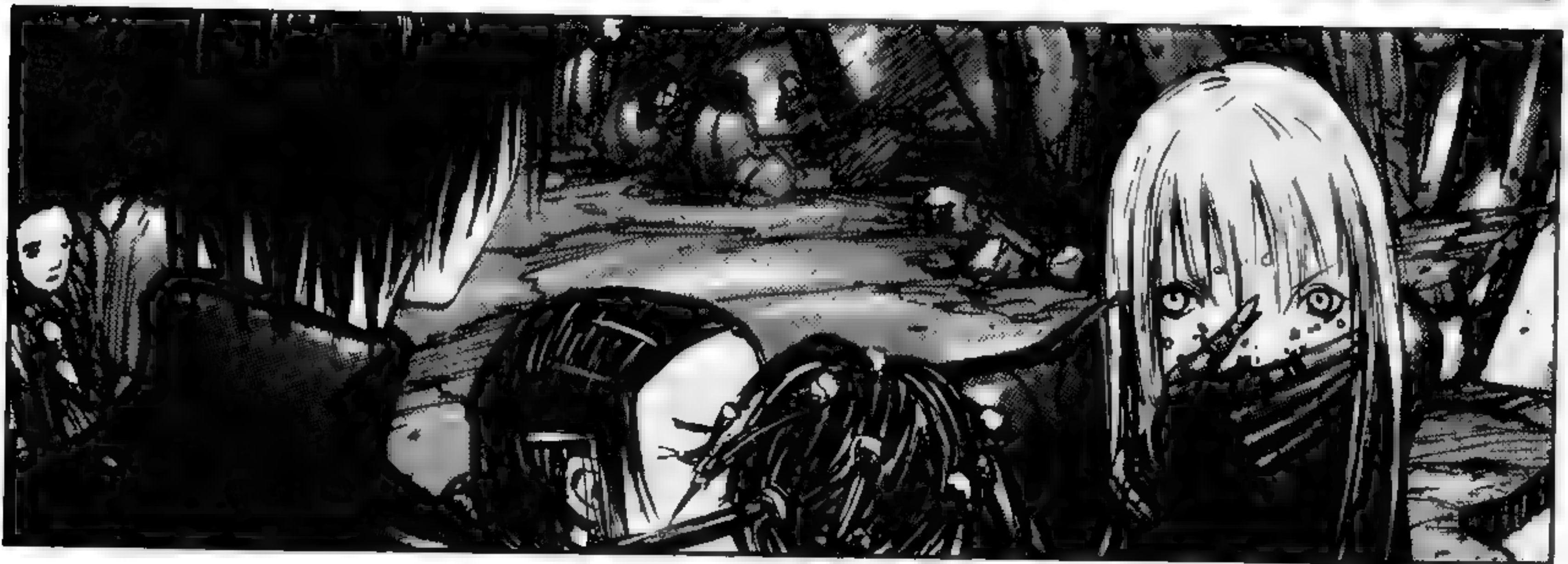


BLURSH





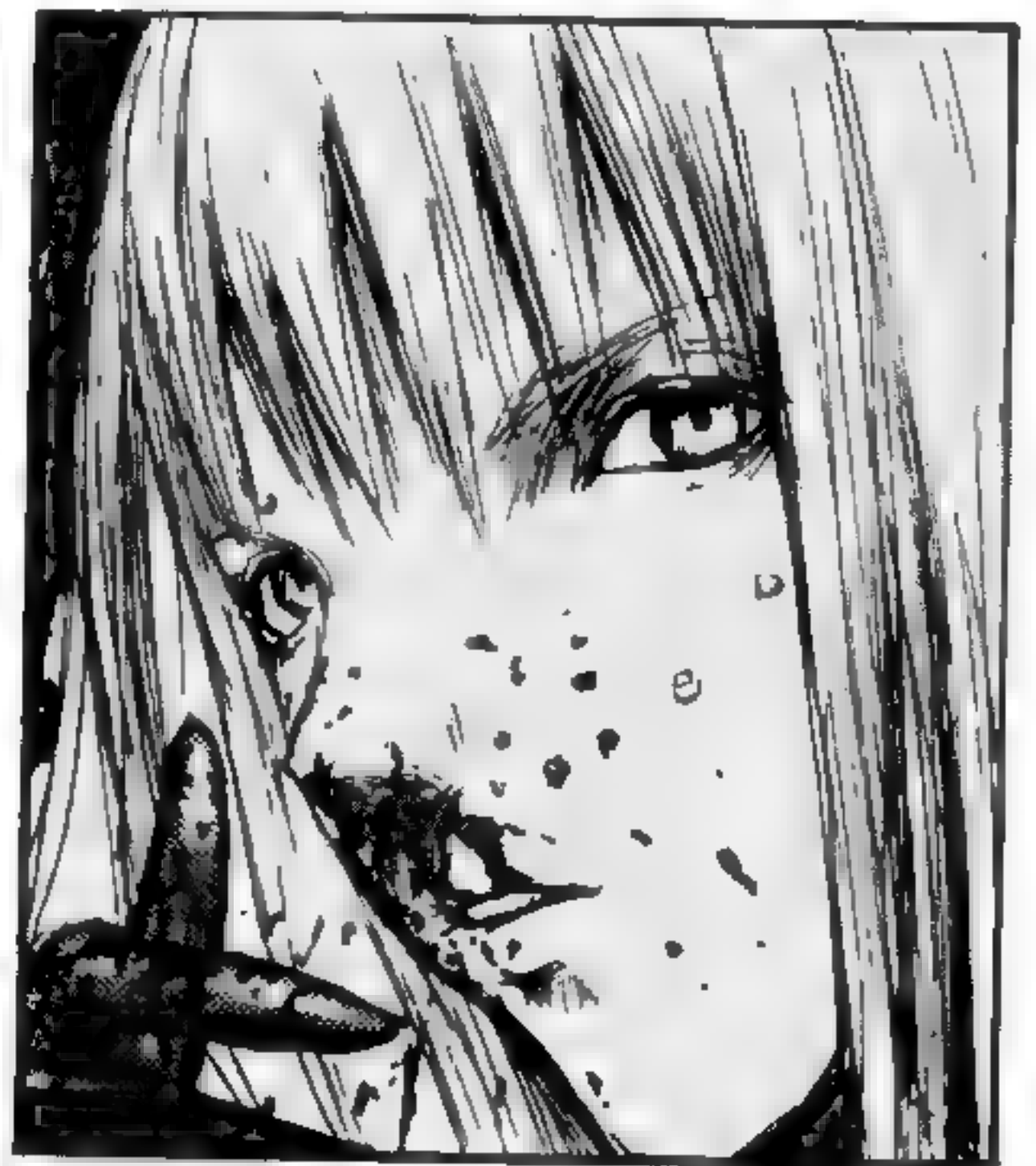
WHAT'S
WRONG,
CIBO?
YOU'RE
BLEEDING!



BZZT



I CAN
READ THE
BUILDER'S
SIGNALS...

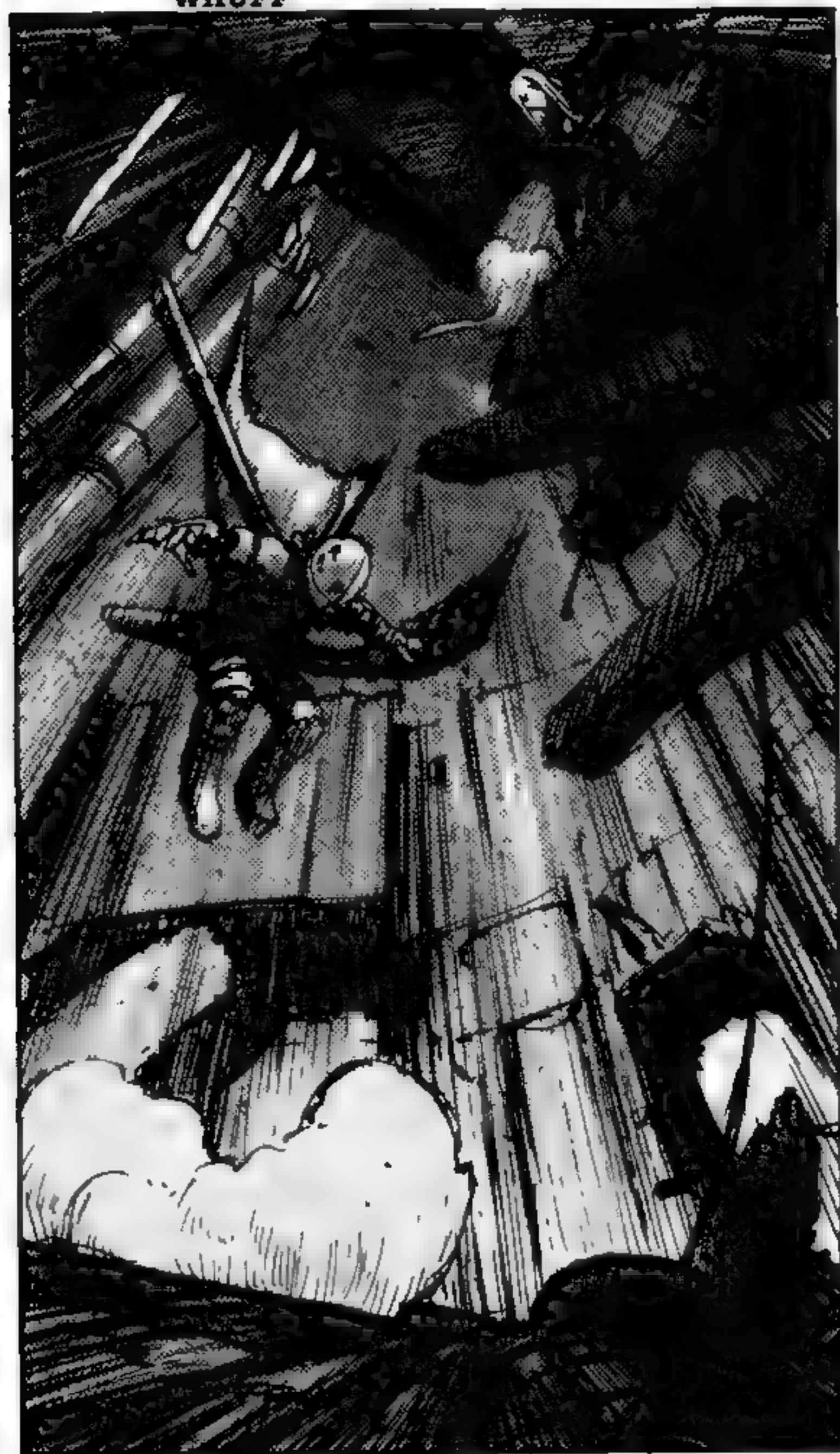


HANG ON,
CIBO! HE'LL
GO WITH
YOU!



WHUFF

I'LL BE
BACK
SOON.



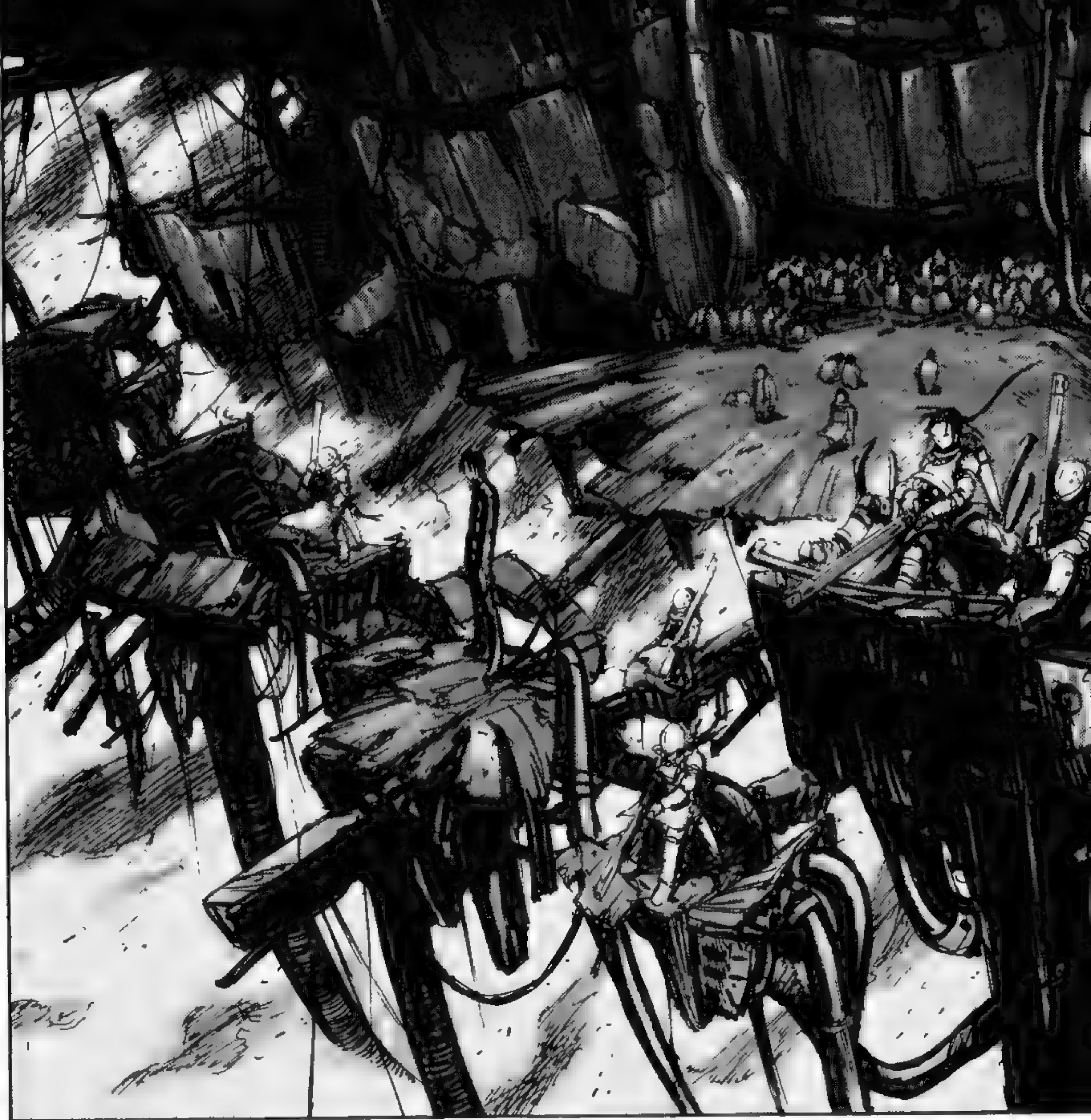
YOU WANT TO
TRANSPORT A
BUILDER, RIGHT?
THE BIGGEST
TRACK IS THAT
WAY. LET'S
GO!

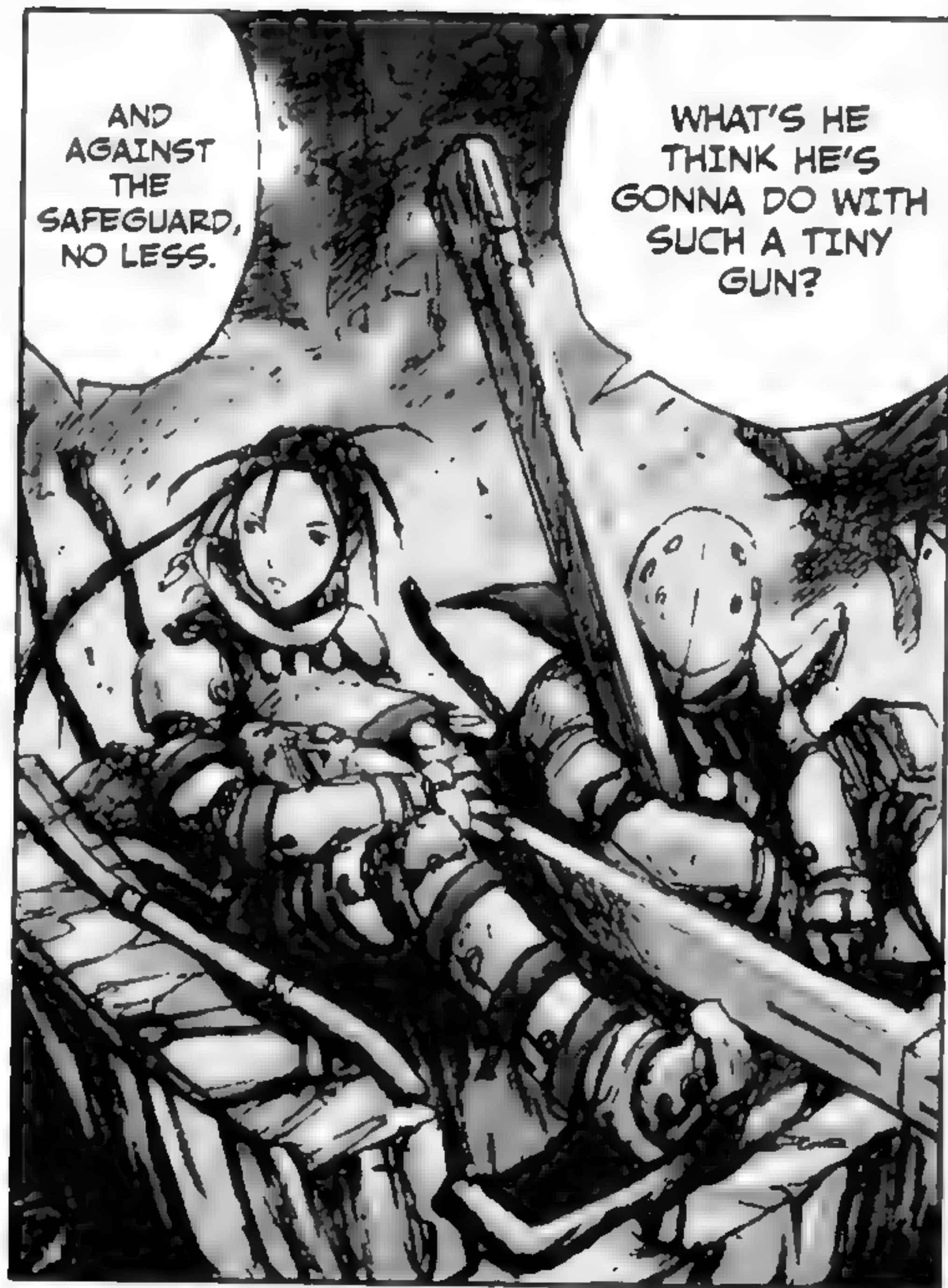




WHOOSH





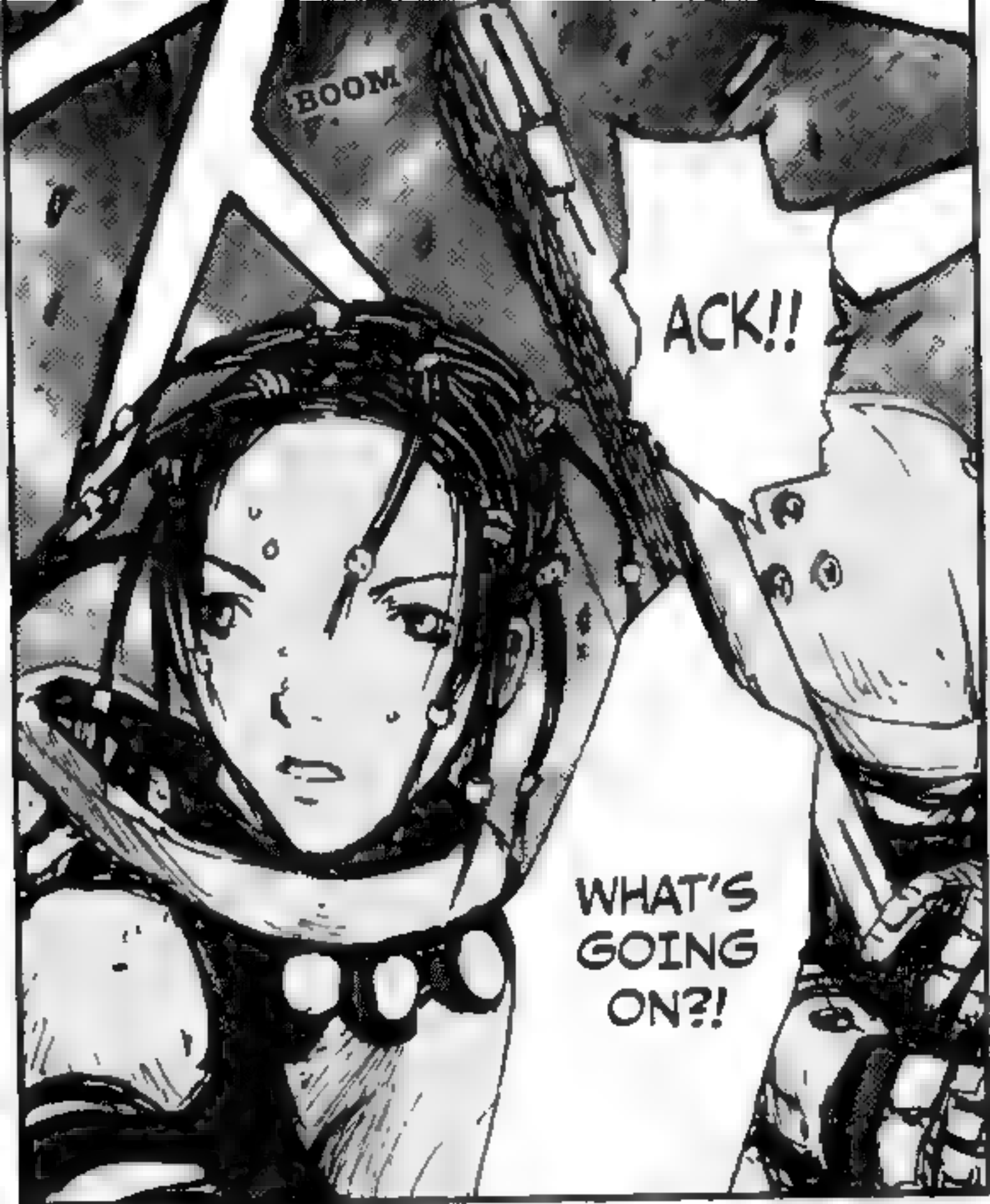






RUMBBLE









CRUSHH

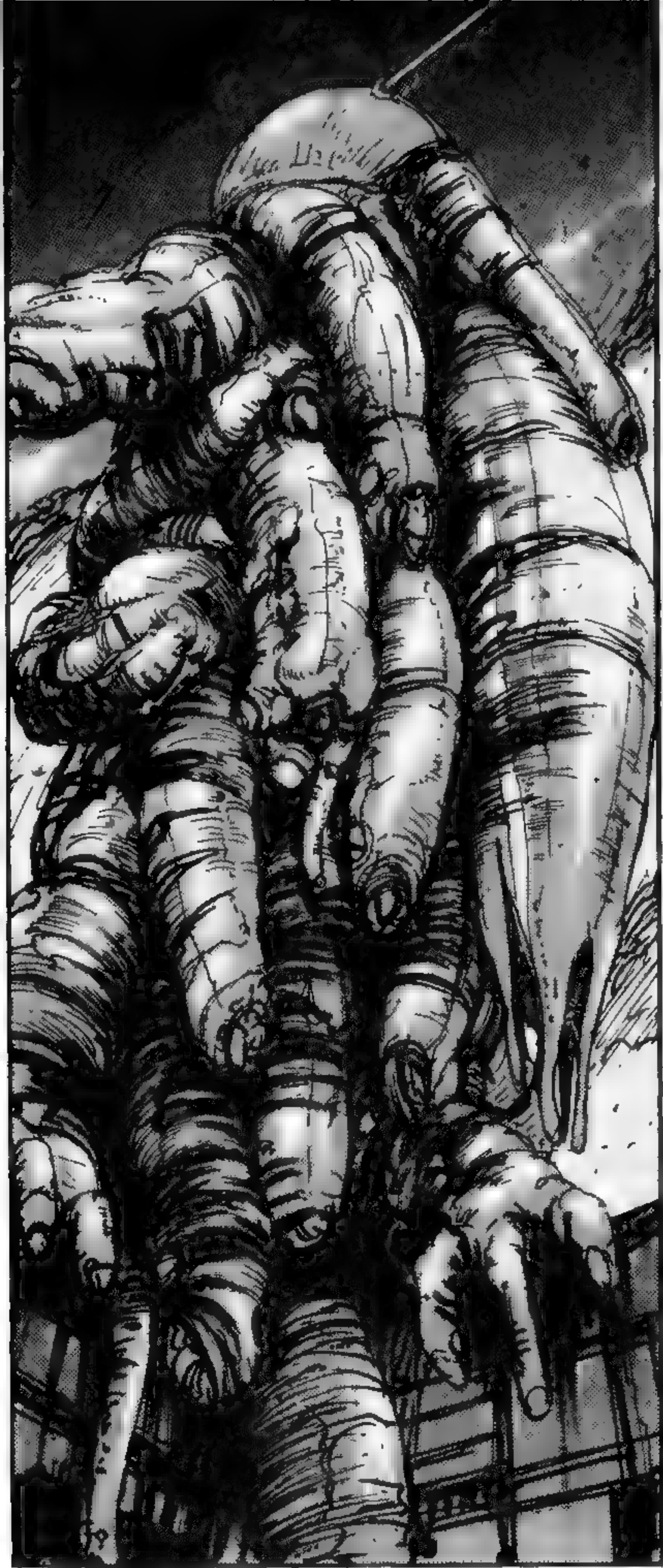


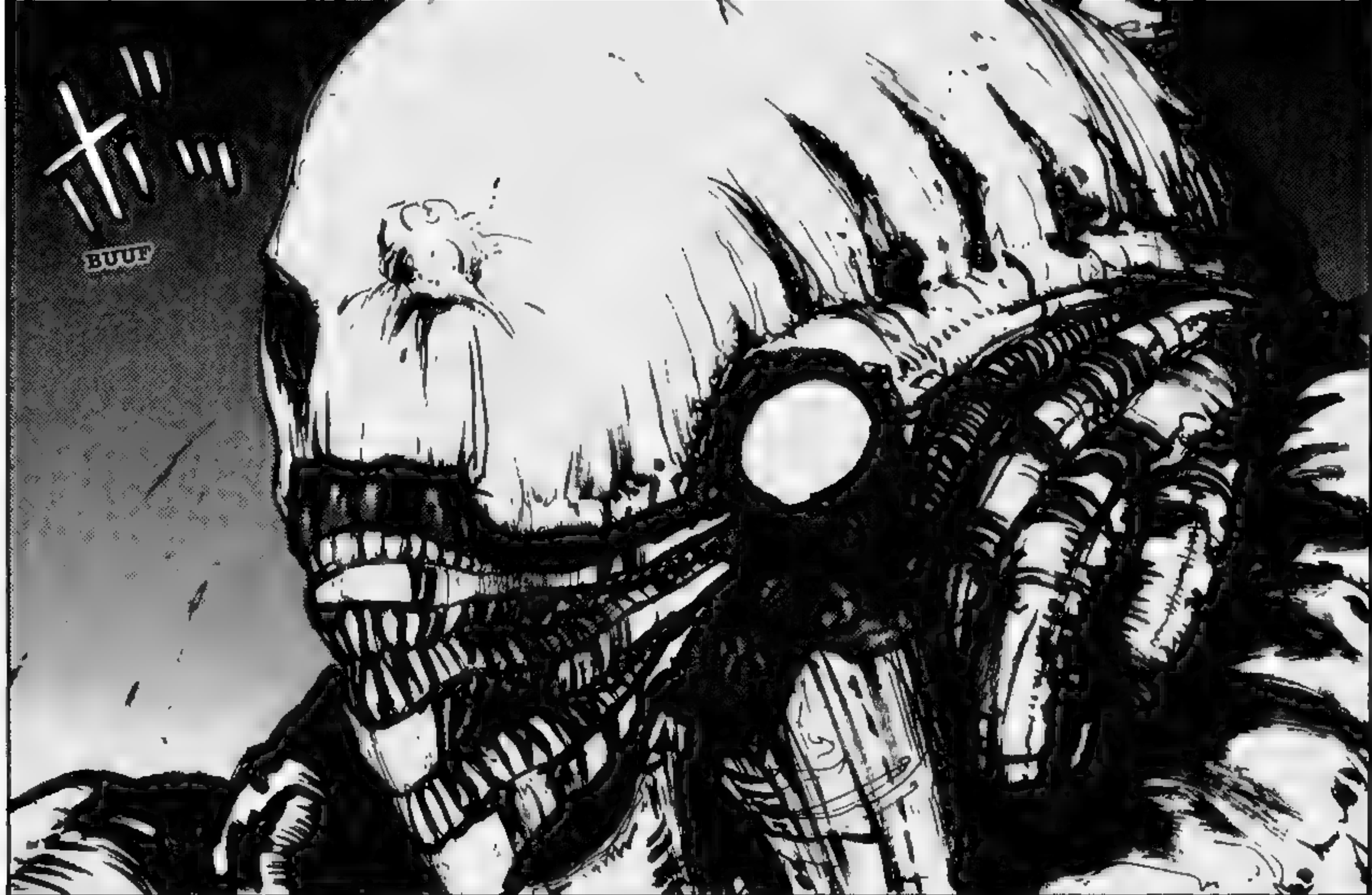
WHINN



SAFEGUARD!

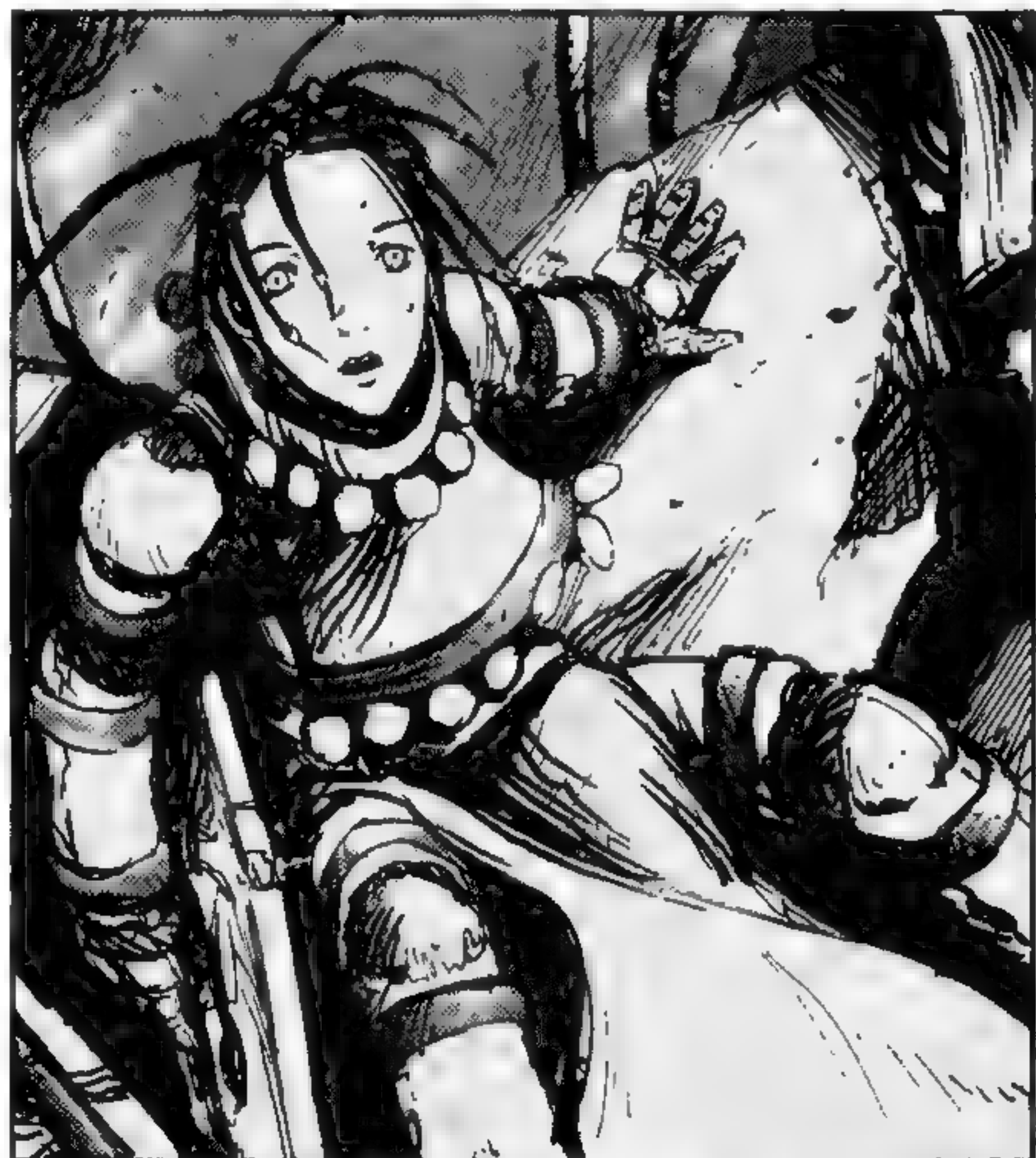




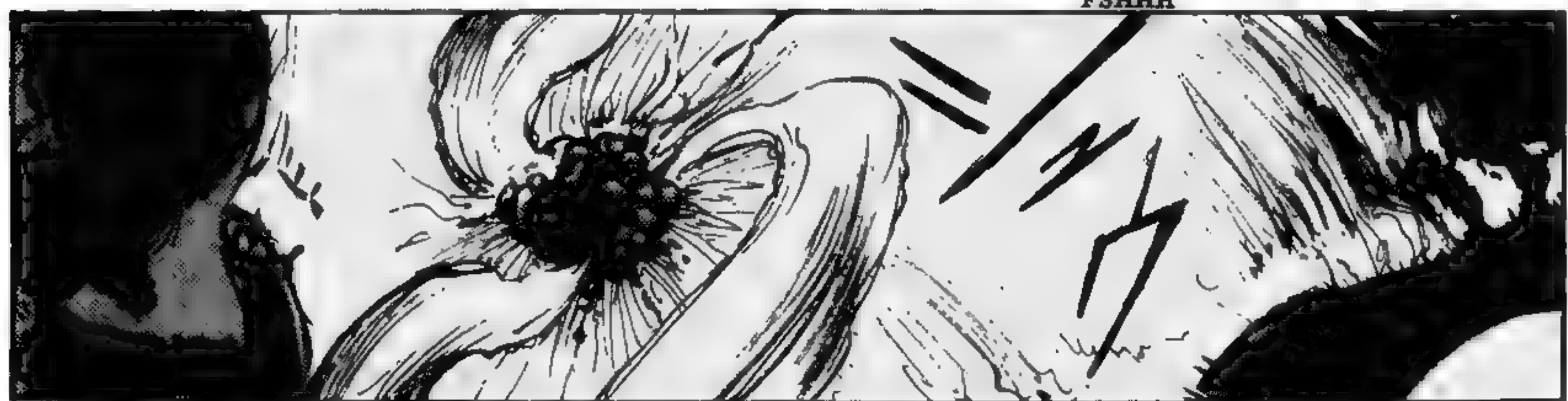


BUUF

CLUNK



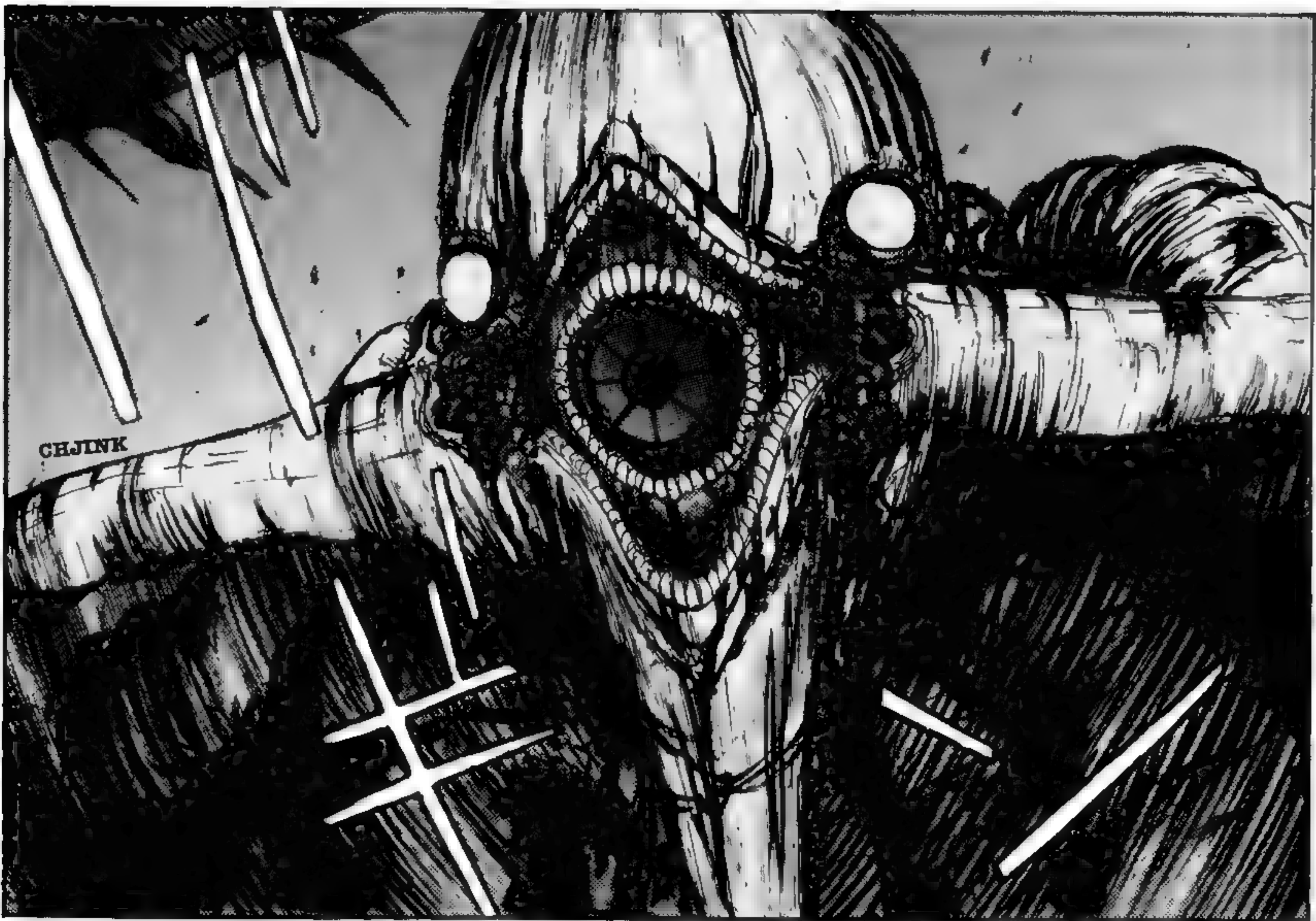
FSHHH





CRUNNNCH

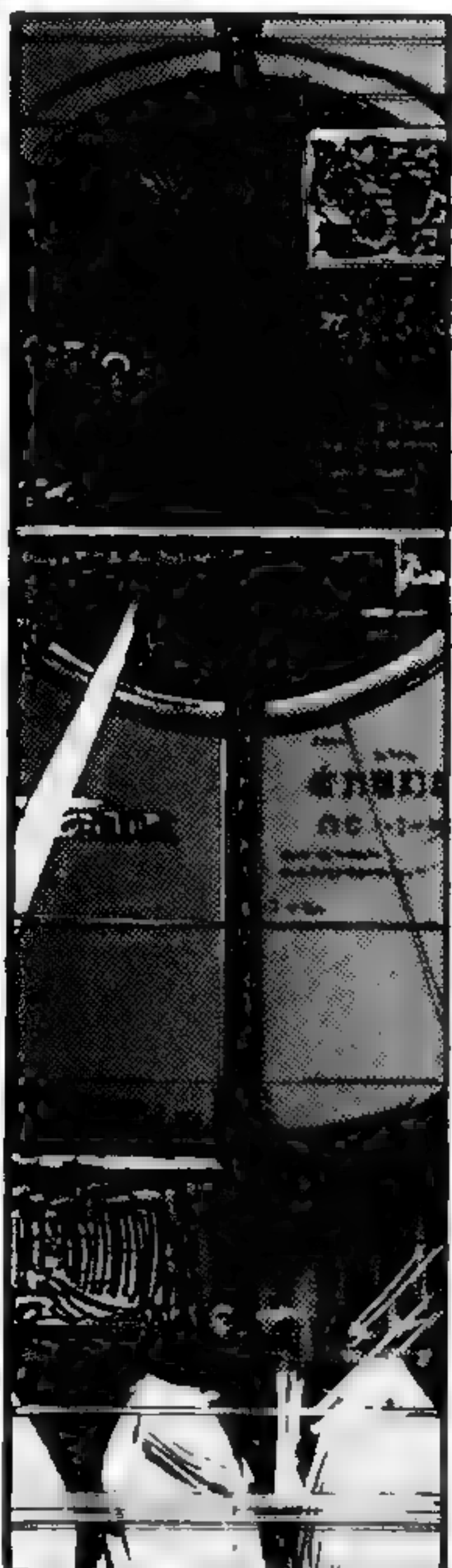


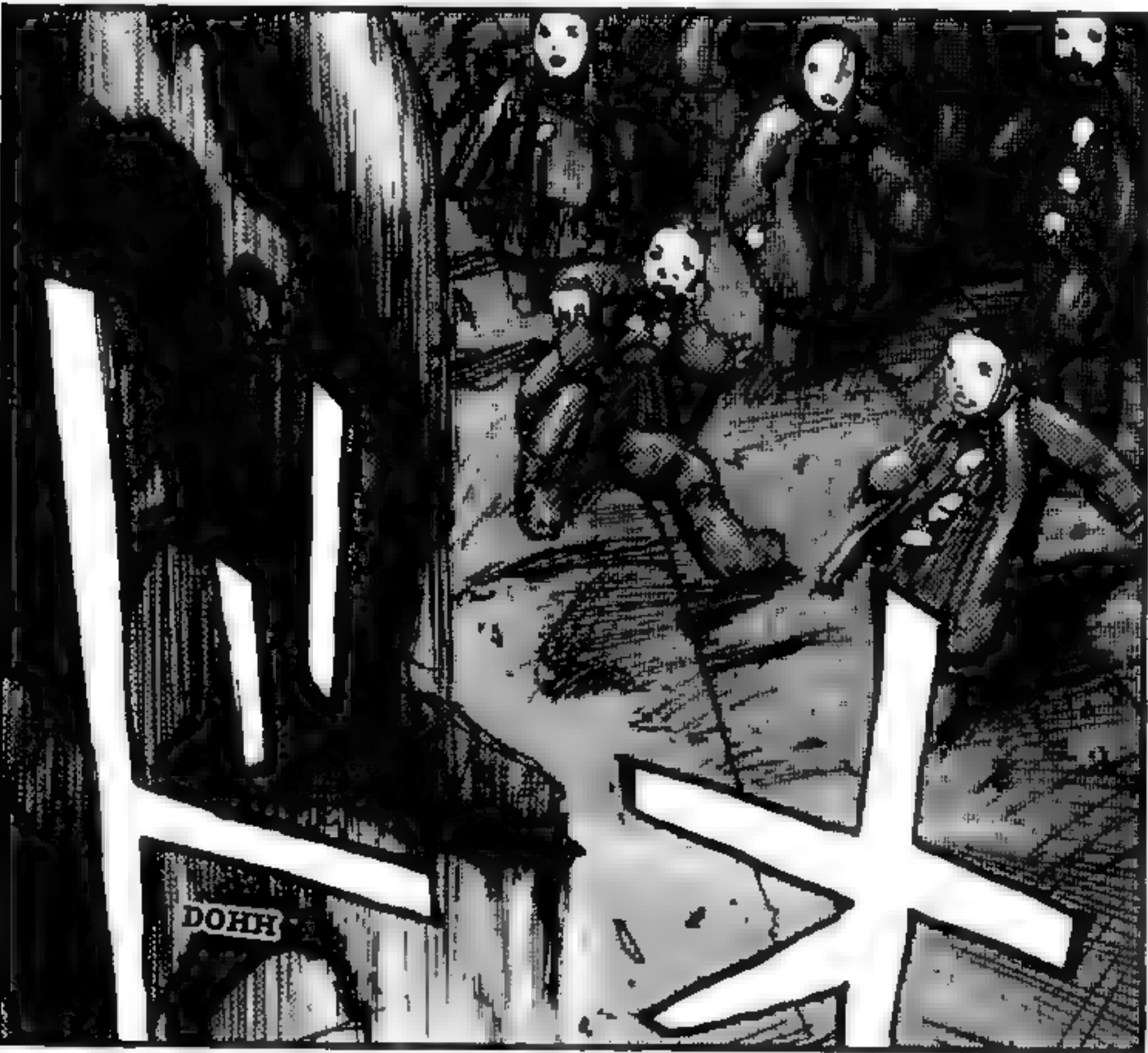


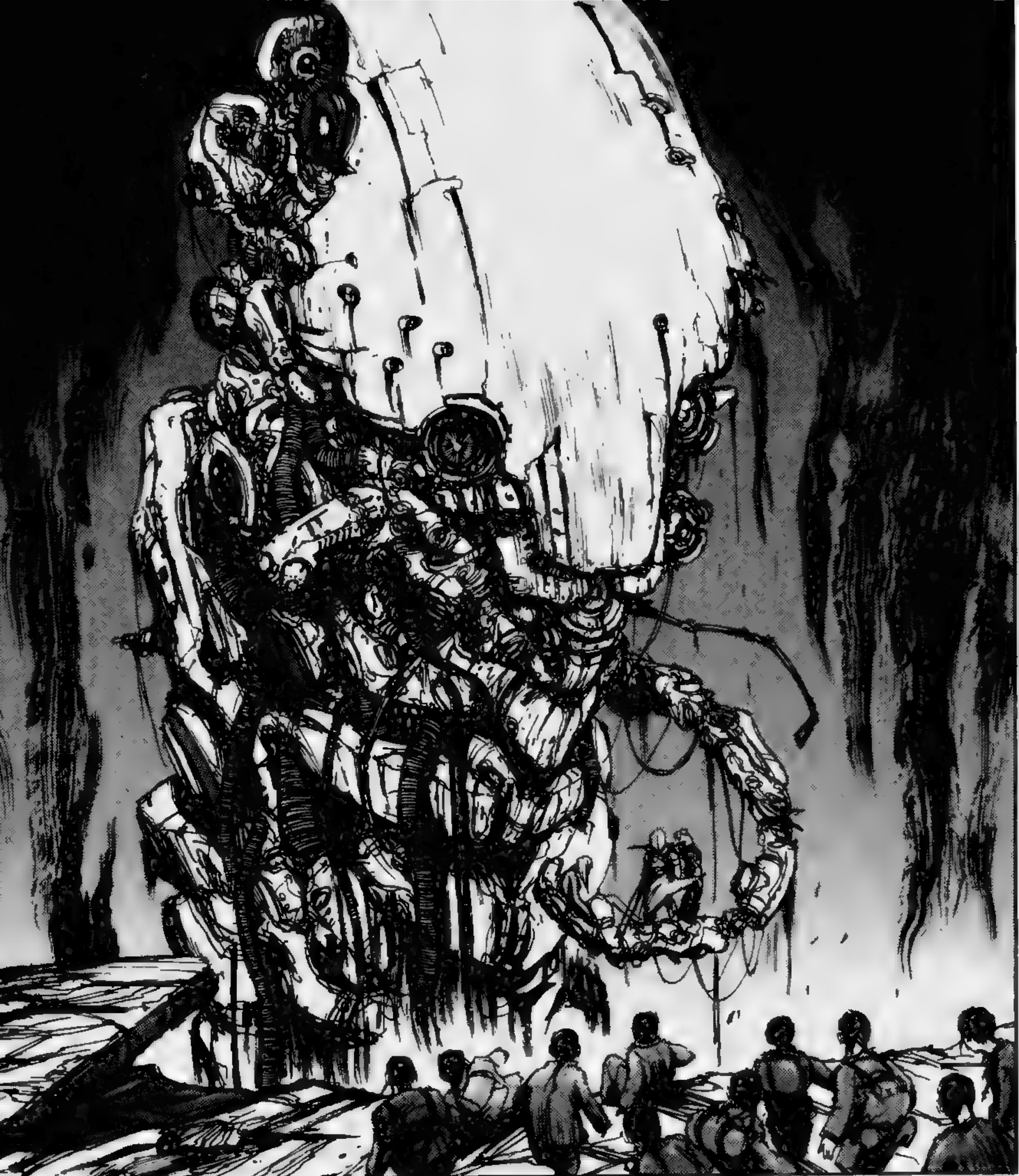
CHJINK



Graviton Beam Emitter

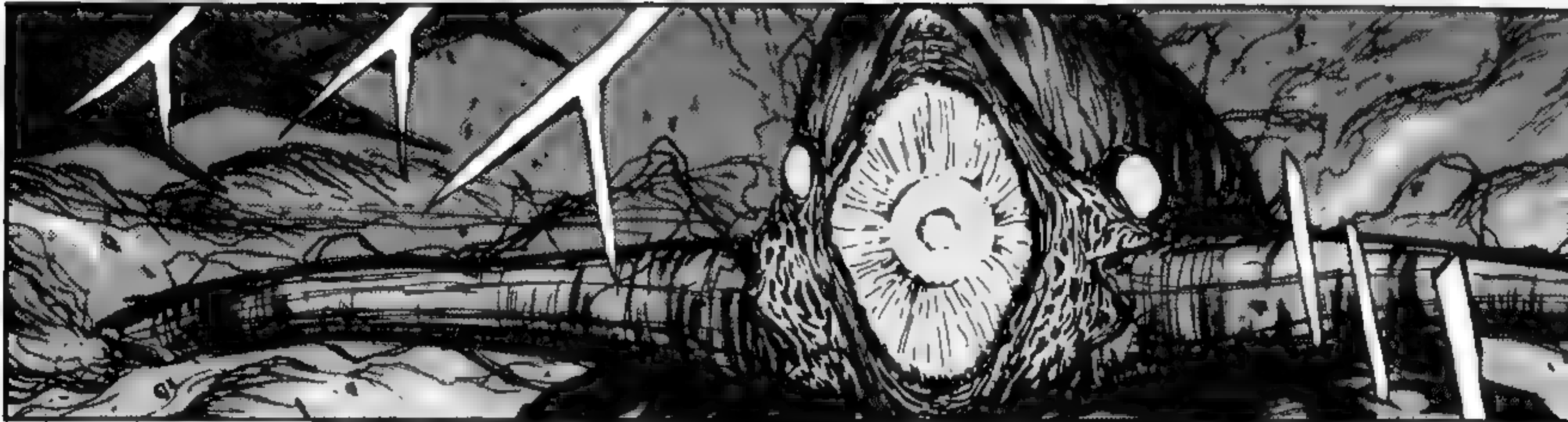




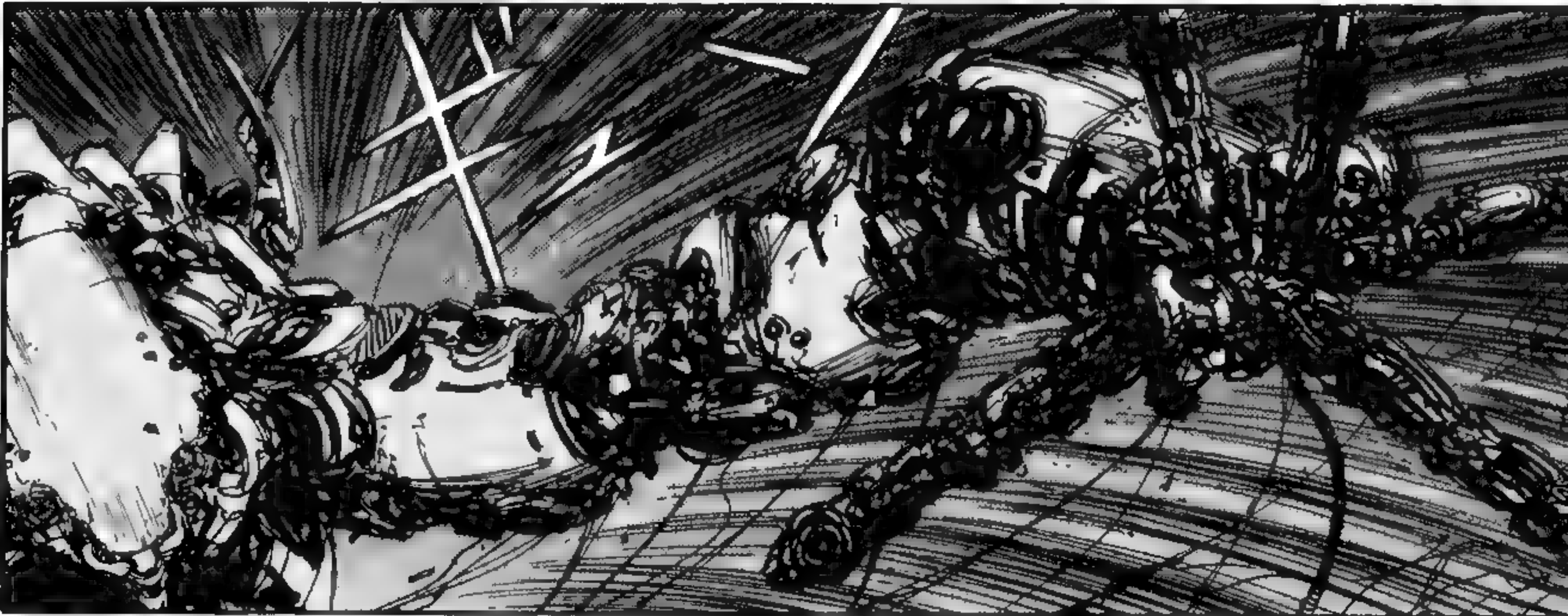




ZRRRRR

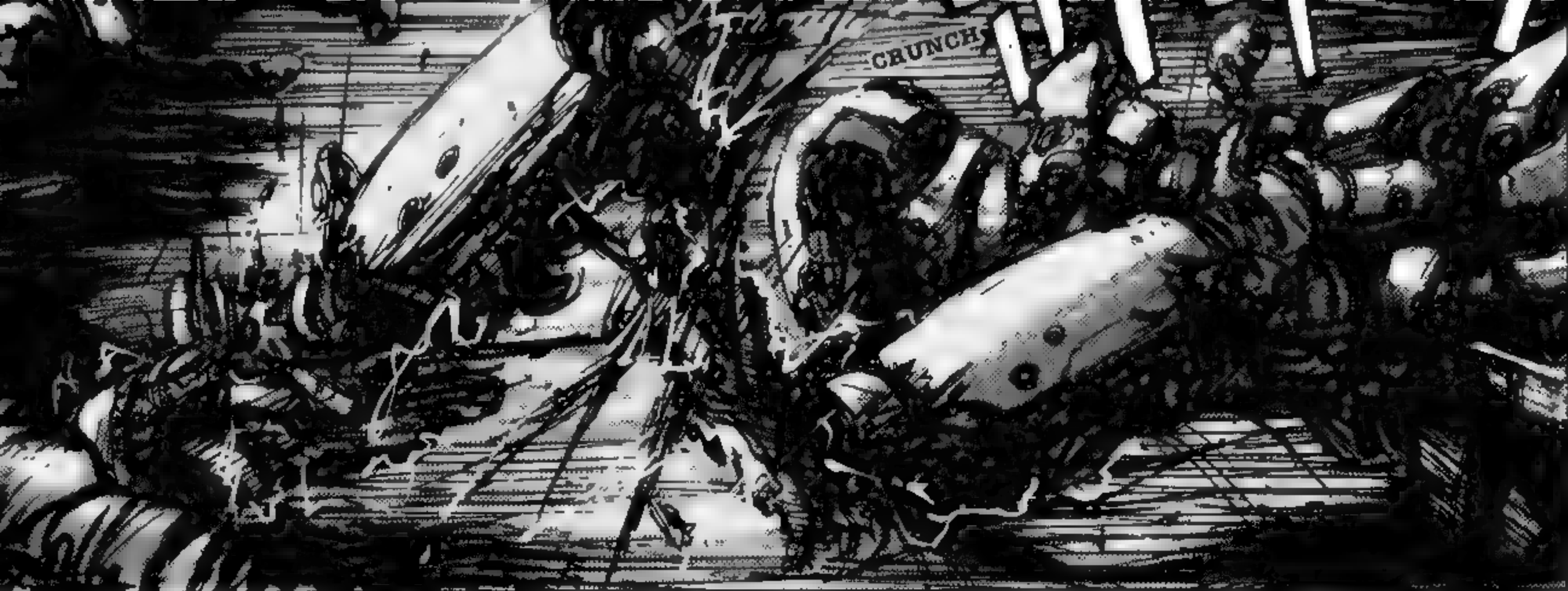


WHUMM



WHACK

ZZZAP



BOOOM

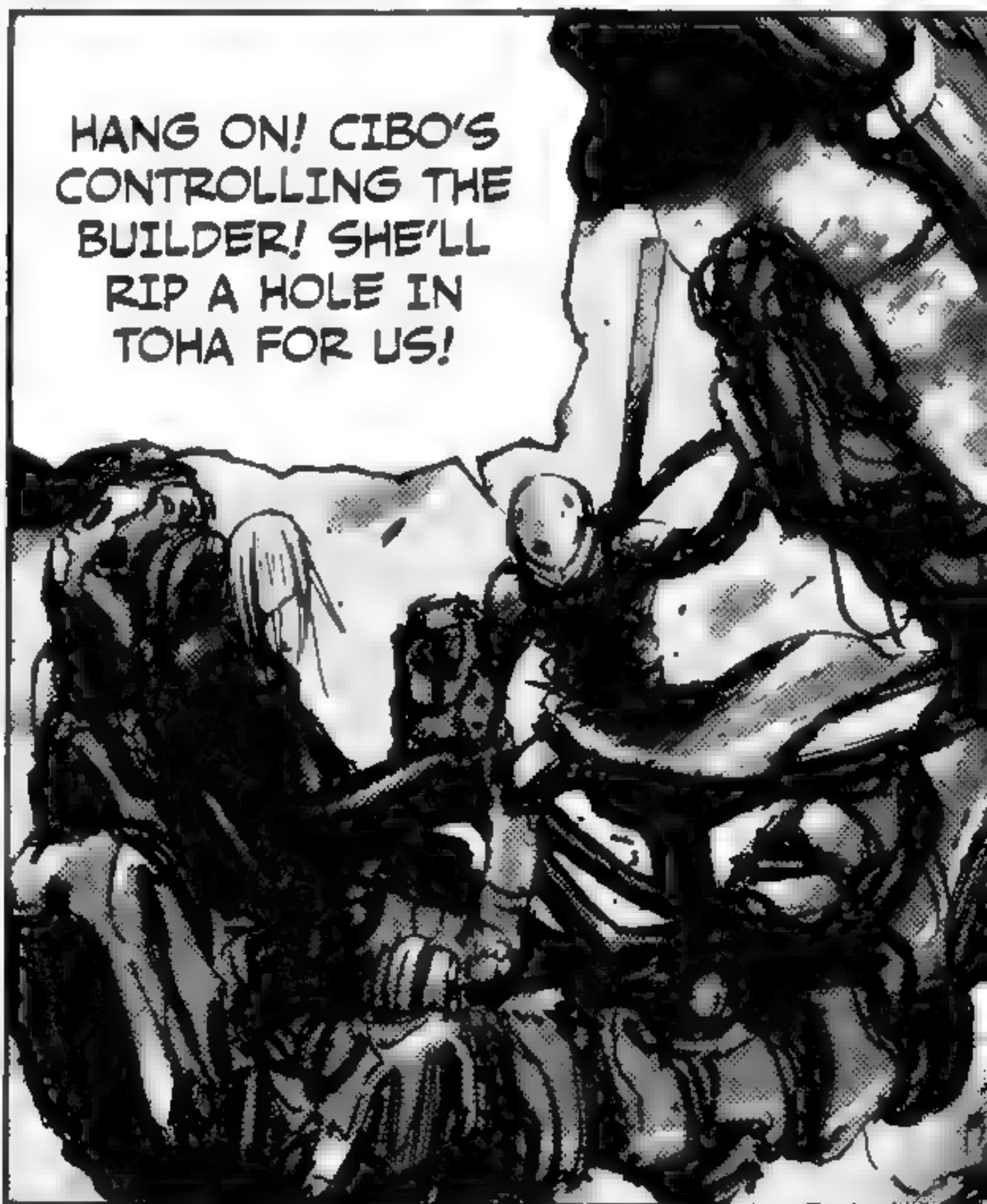
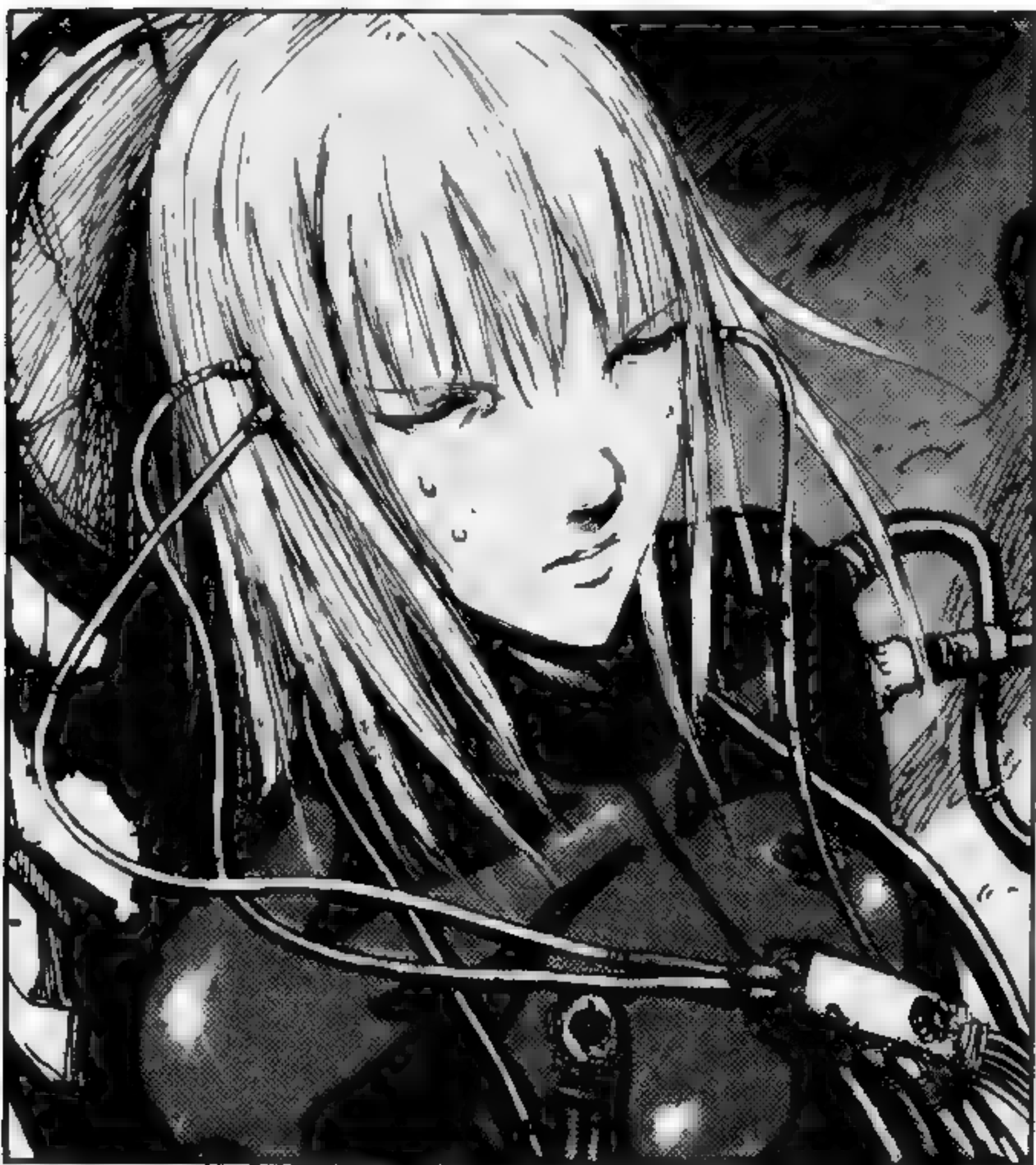




OVER
THERE!
IT'S
CIBO!



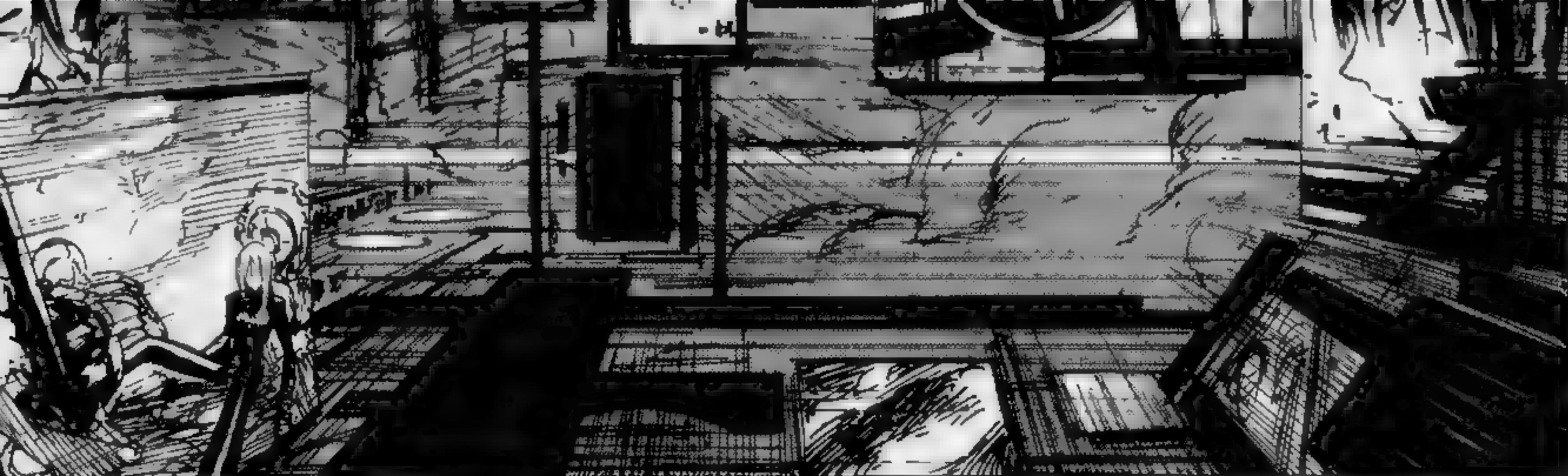
A
BUILDER
?!



HANG ON! CIBO'S
CONTROLLING THE
BUILDER! SHE'LL
RIP A HOLE IN
TOHA FOR US!

WHOOOSH

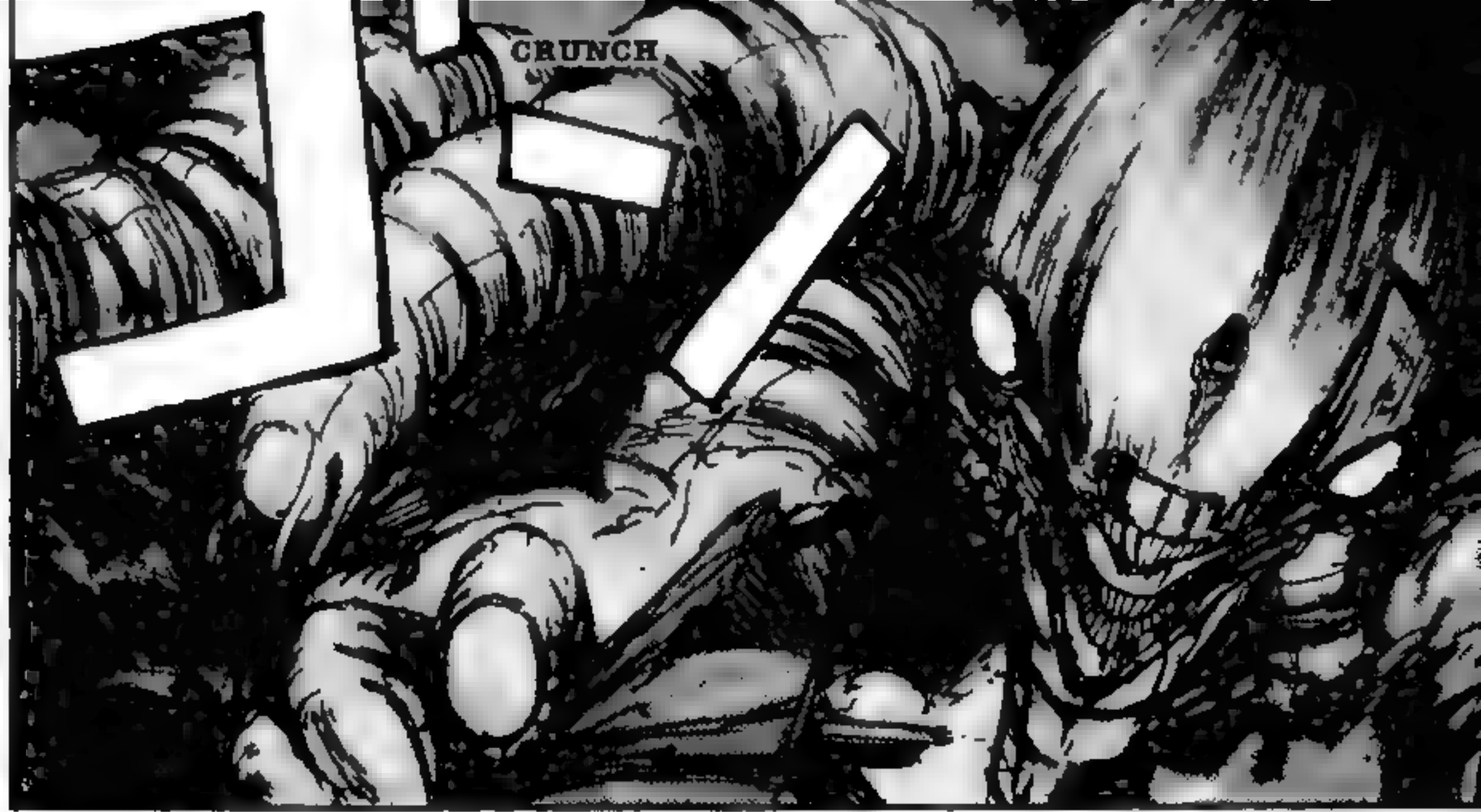




CHIIII

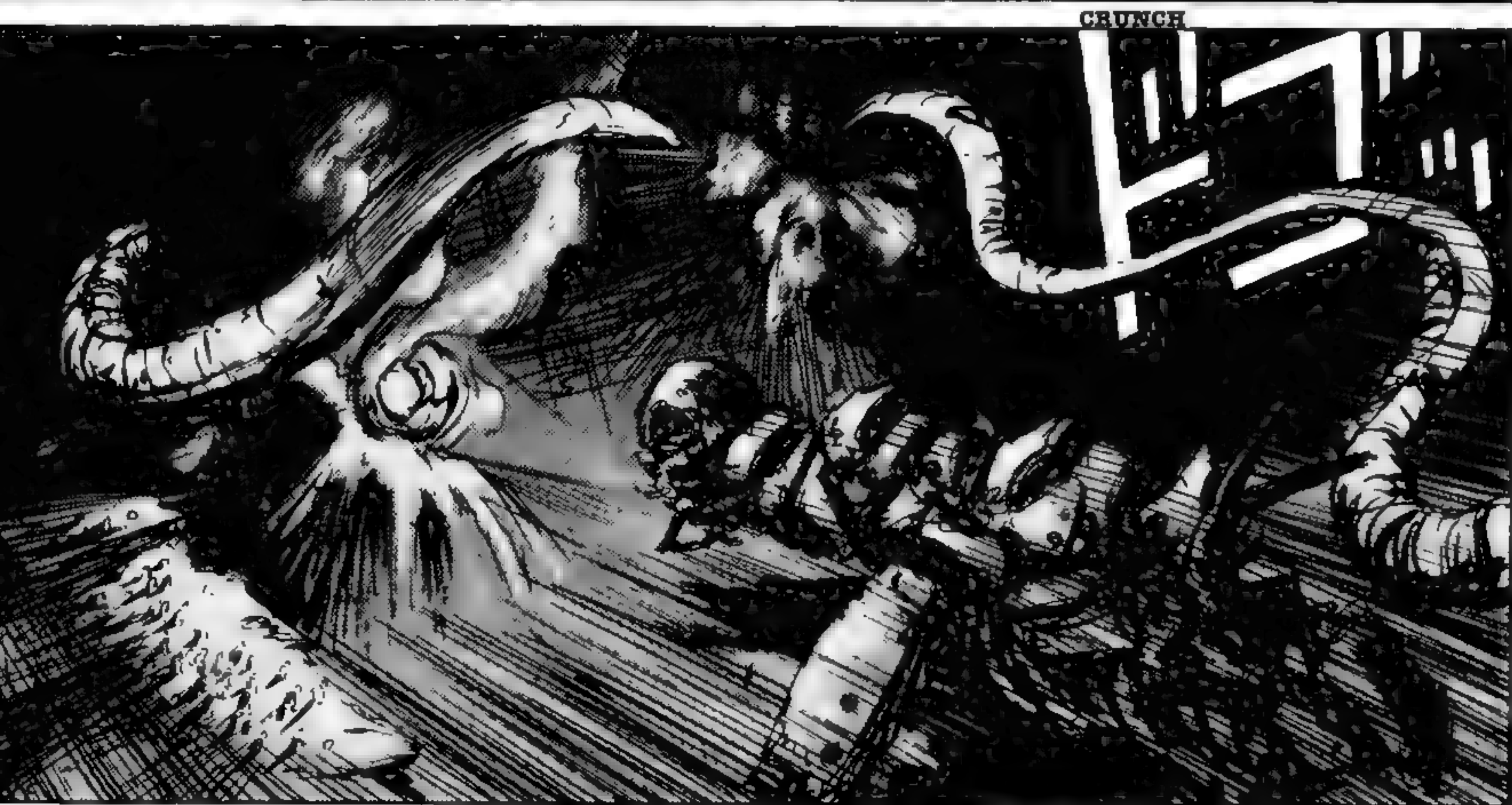
KA-CHING





WHOOSH



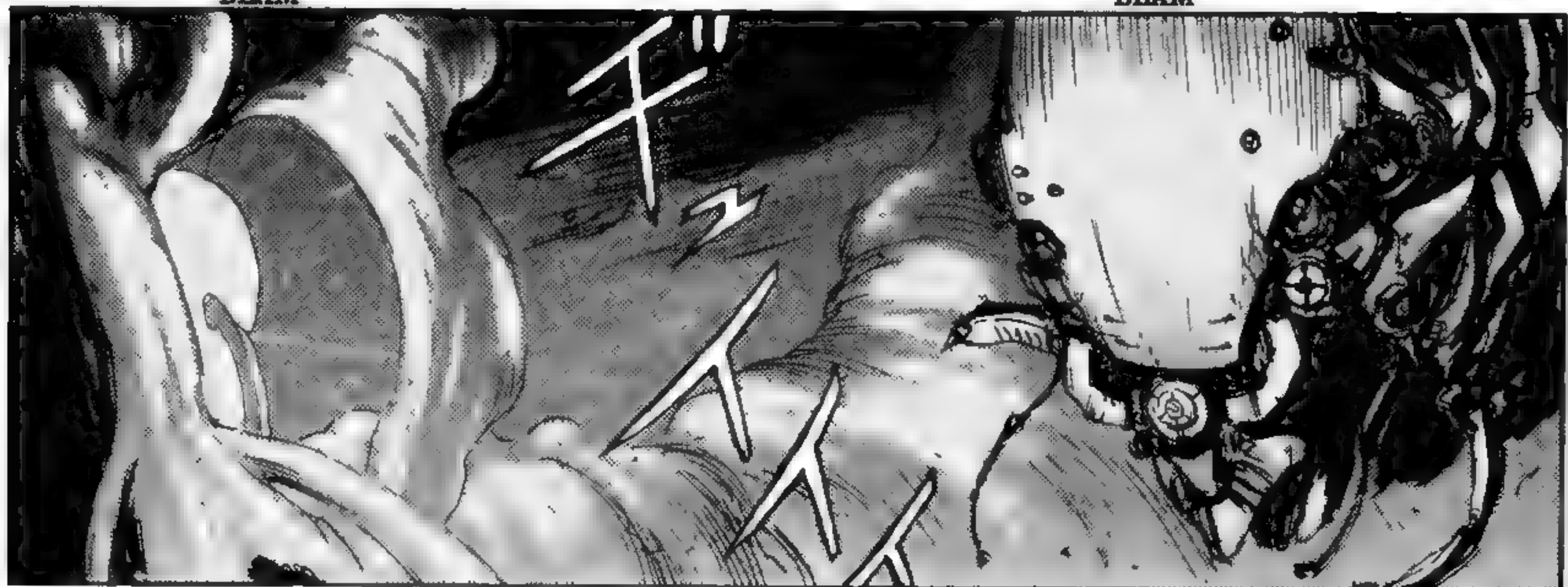






BLAM

BLAM



FZZZZZ

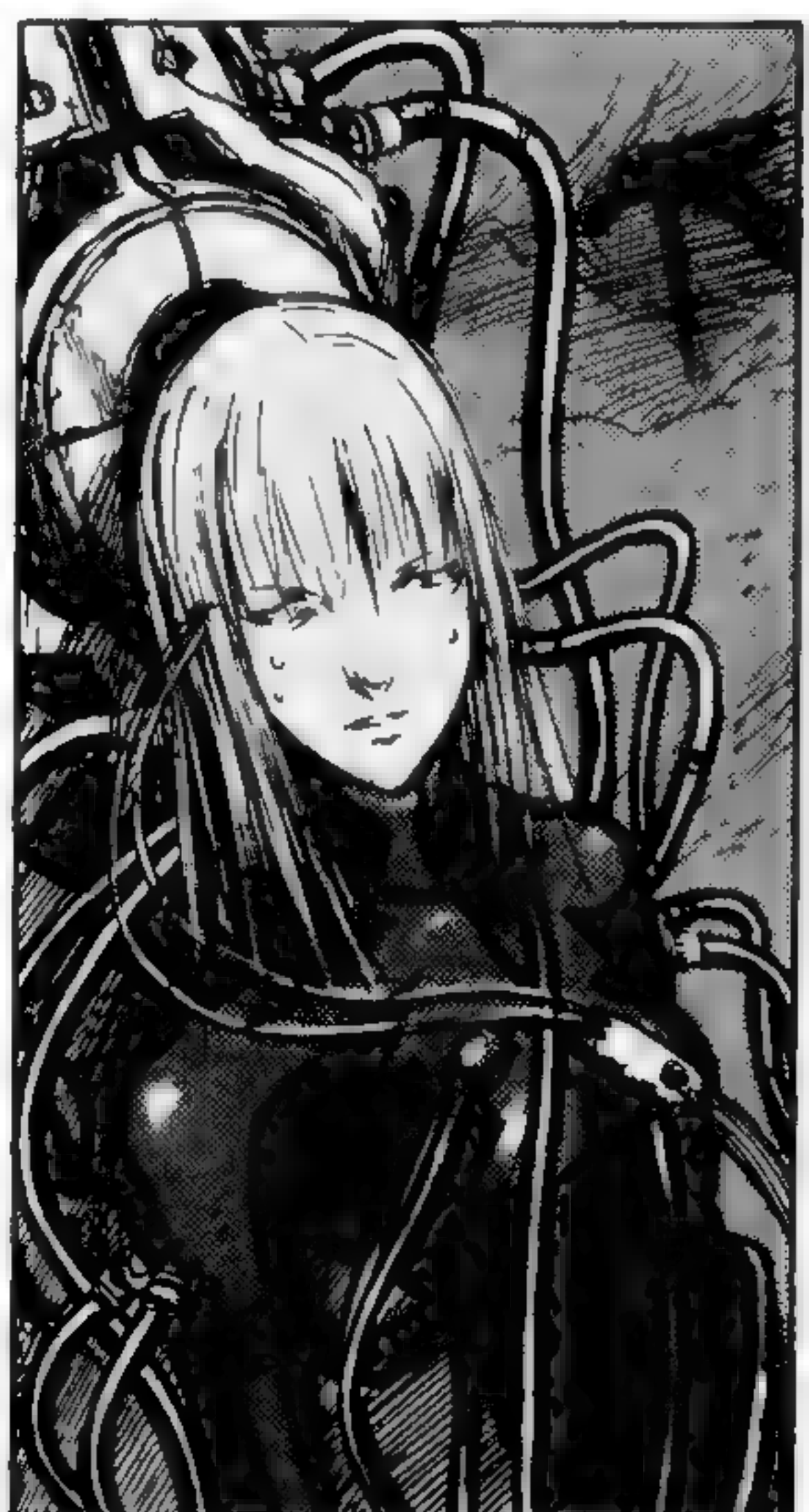


THAT LINK
WITH KILLY'S
BRAIN MADE
ME FEEL...



ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT,
CIBO?
YOU DON'T
LOOK SO
GOOD!

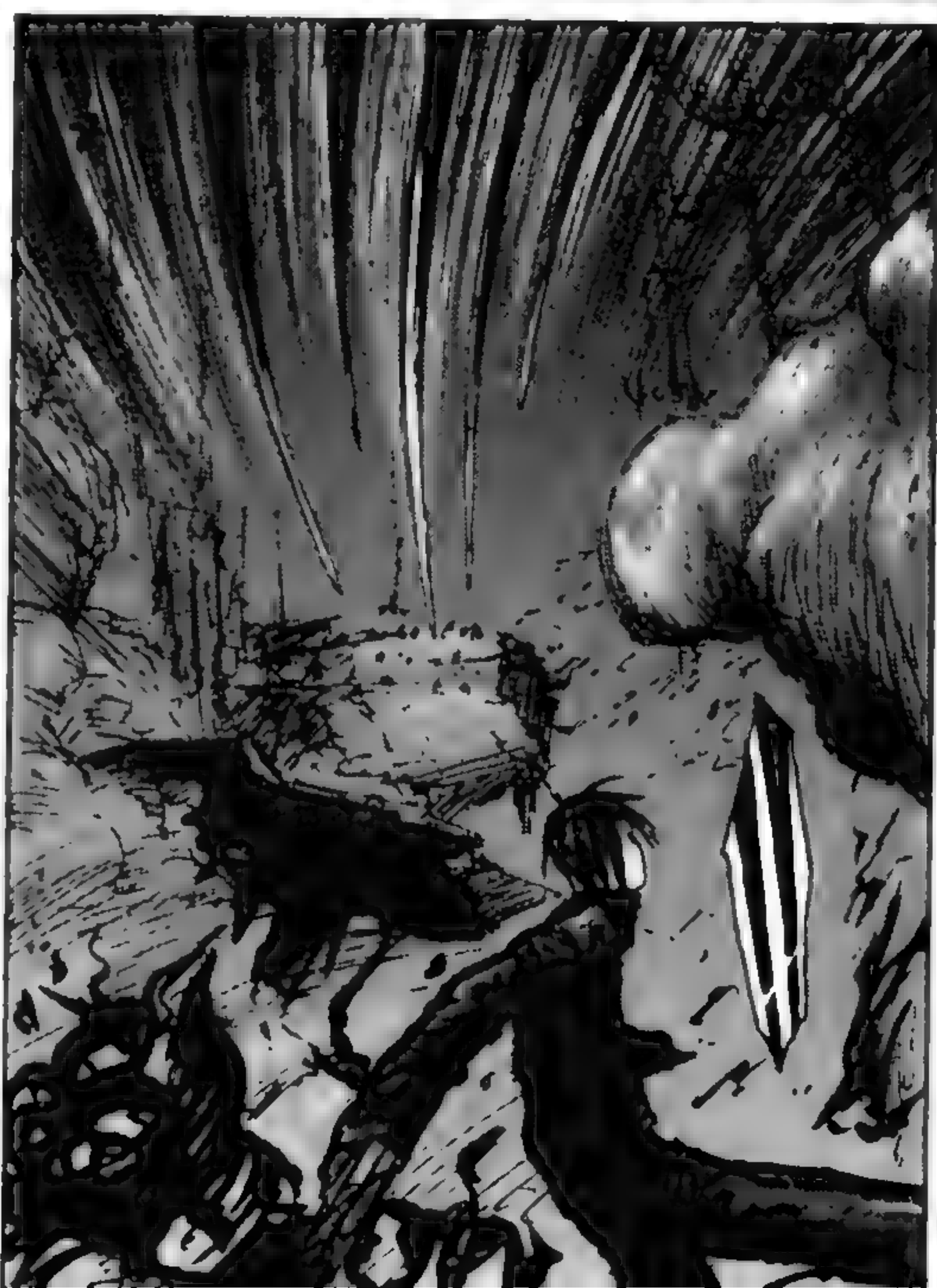
I'LL BE
FINE...

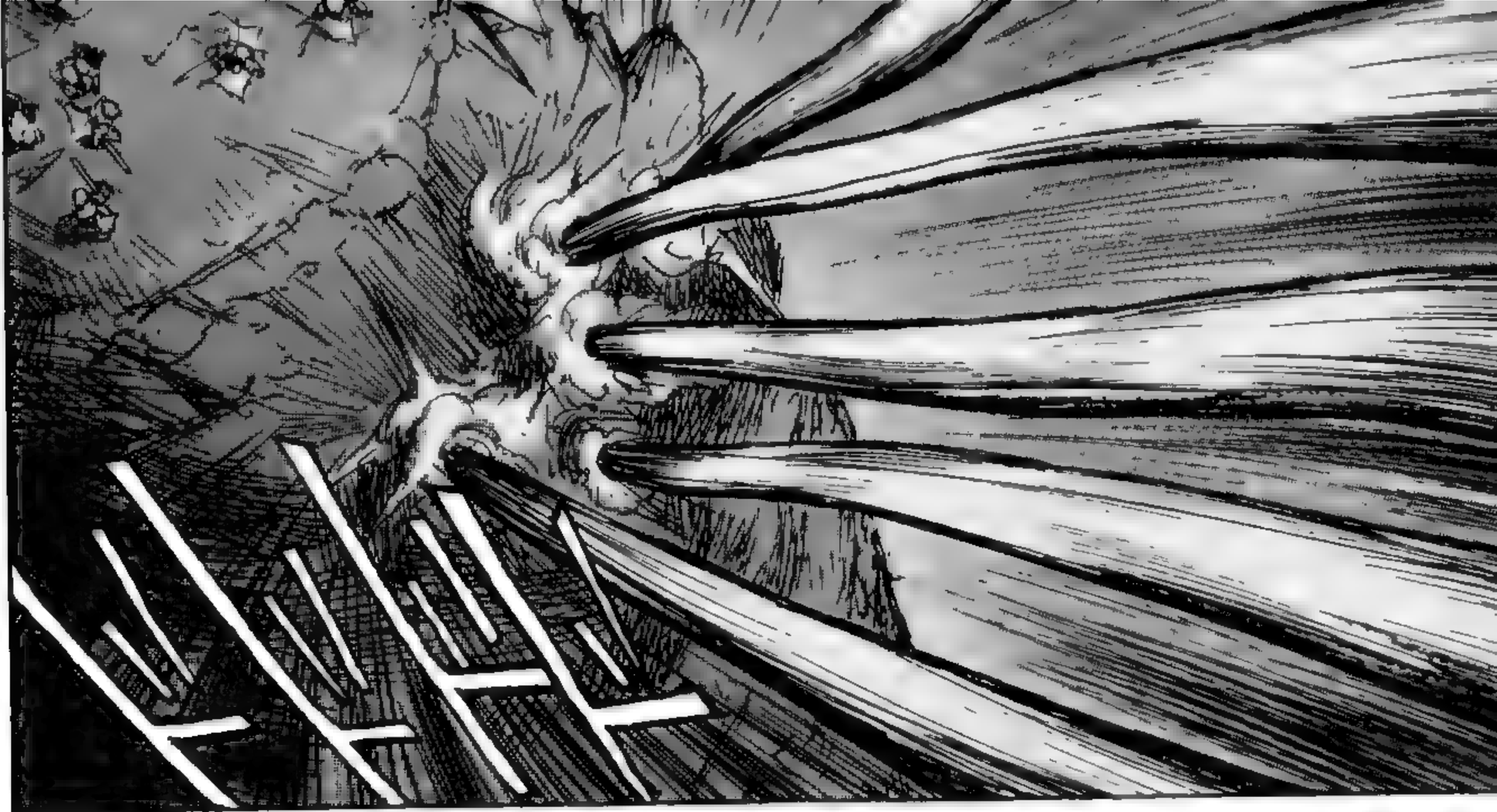




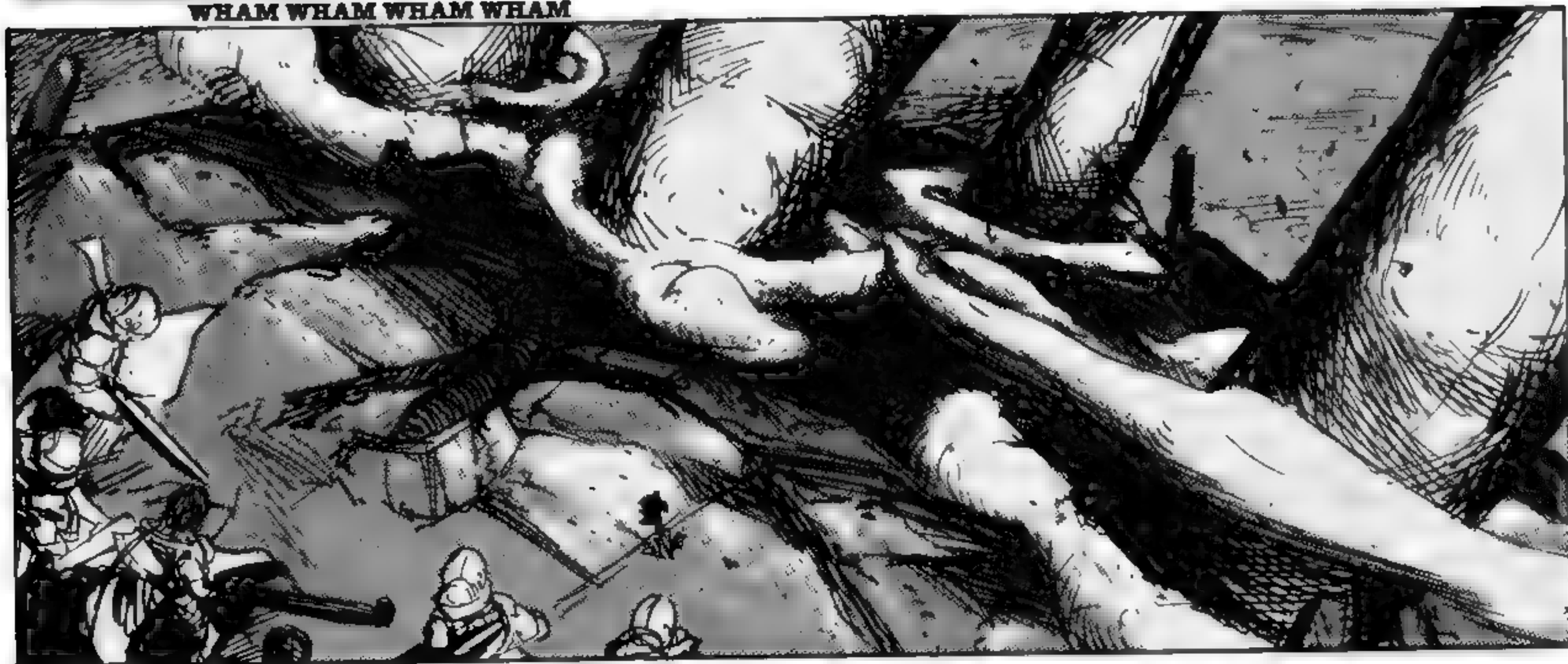
EVERYONE,
GET TO THE
ENTRANCE
NOW!!

.....

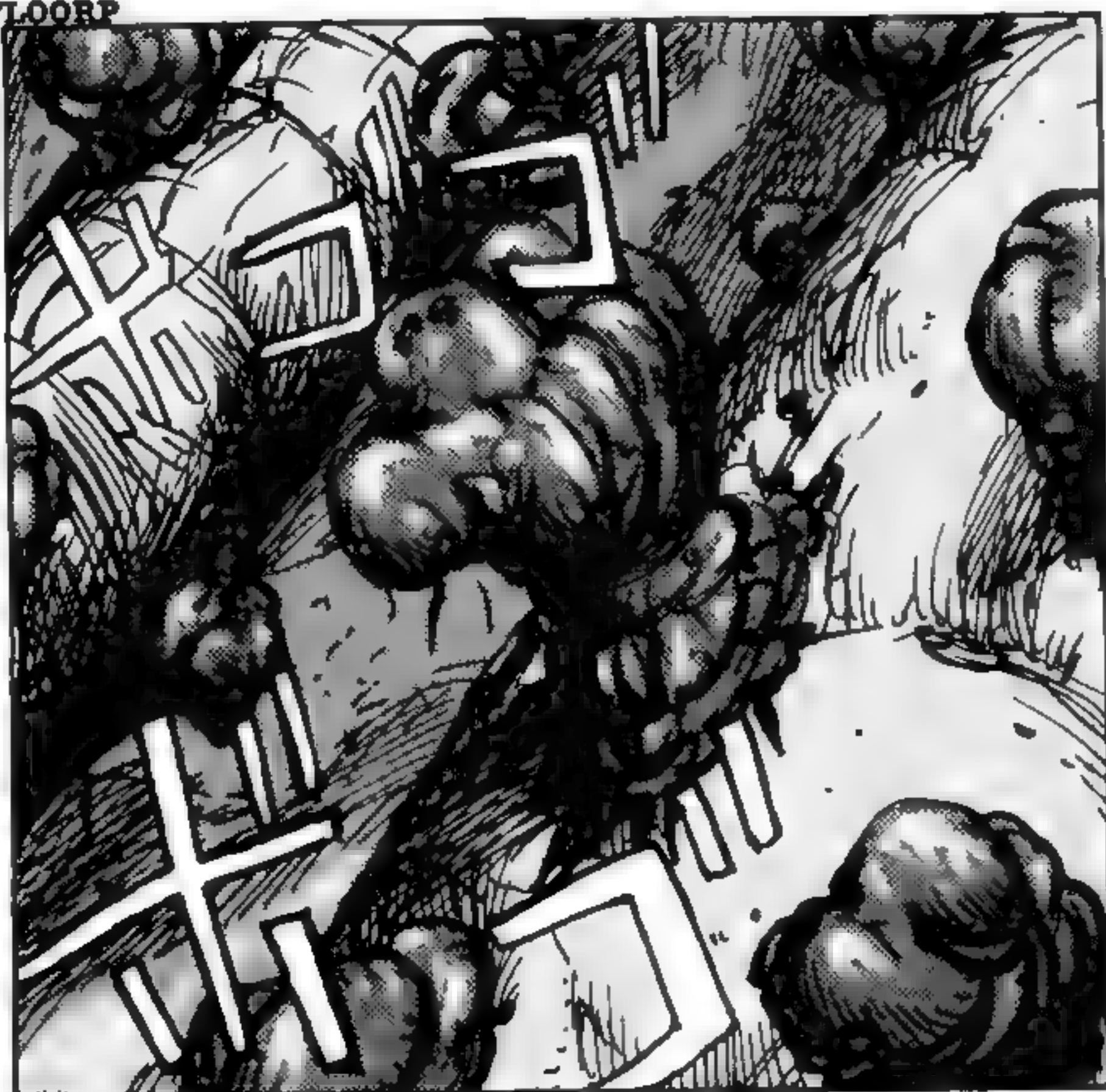




WHAM WHAM WHAM WHAM



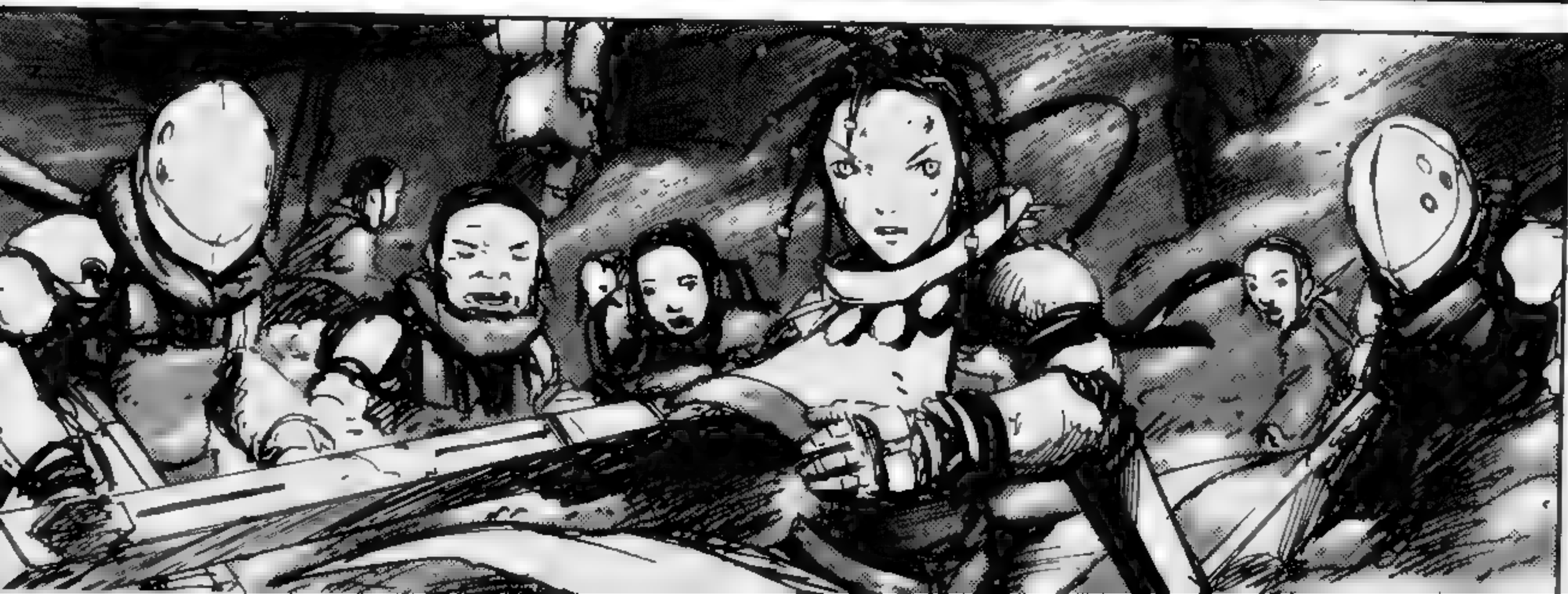
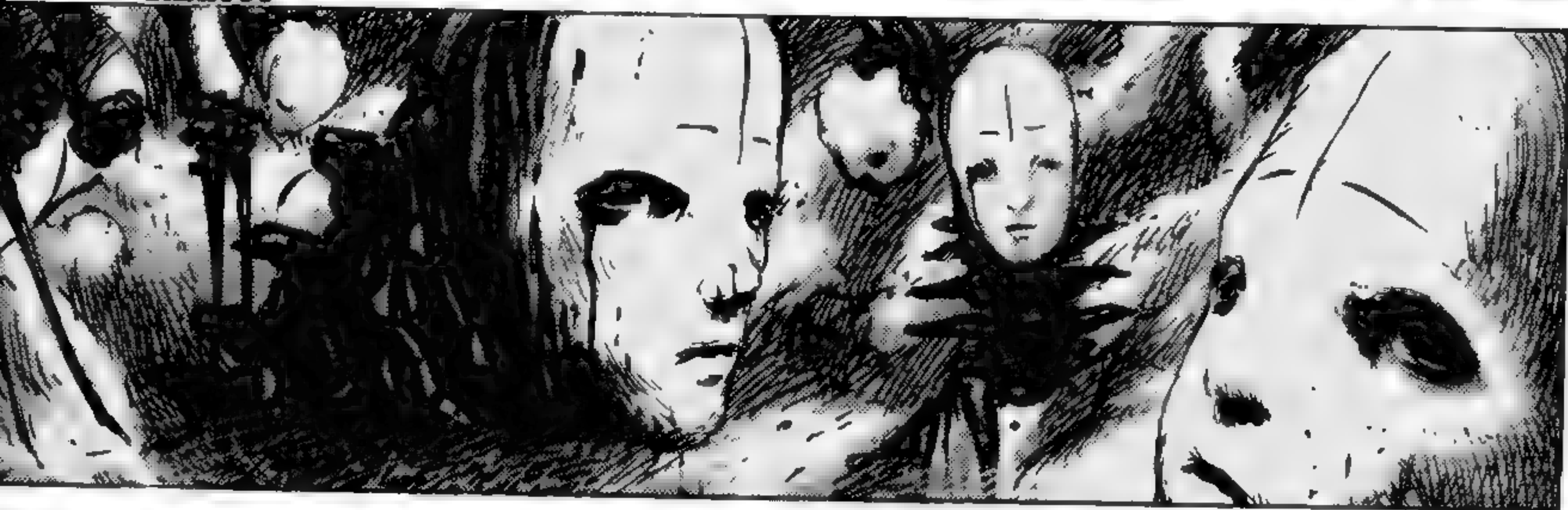
FLOORP



BLURCH



BASHUUU







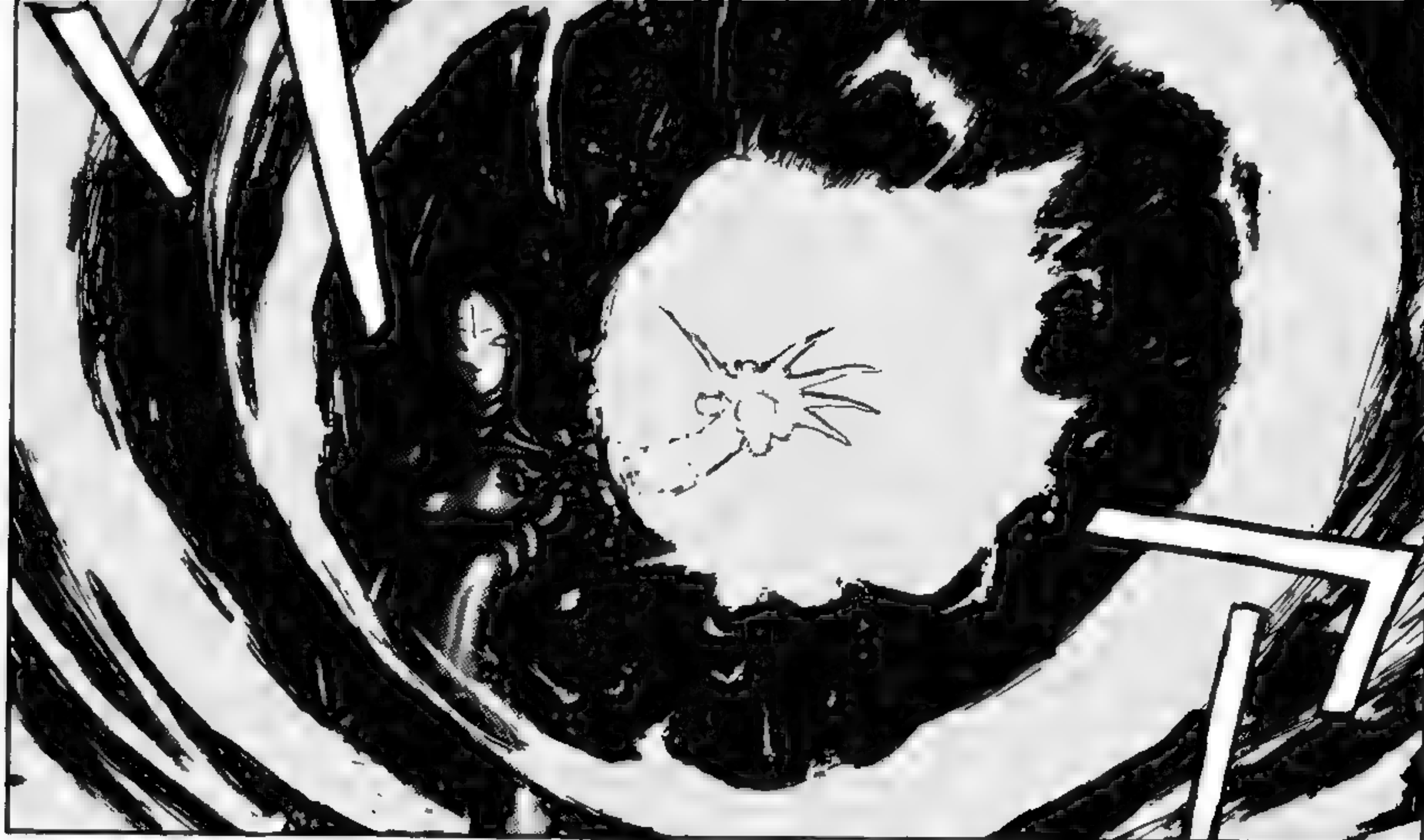
BOOM



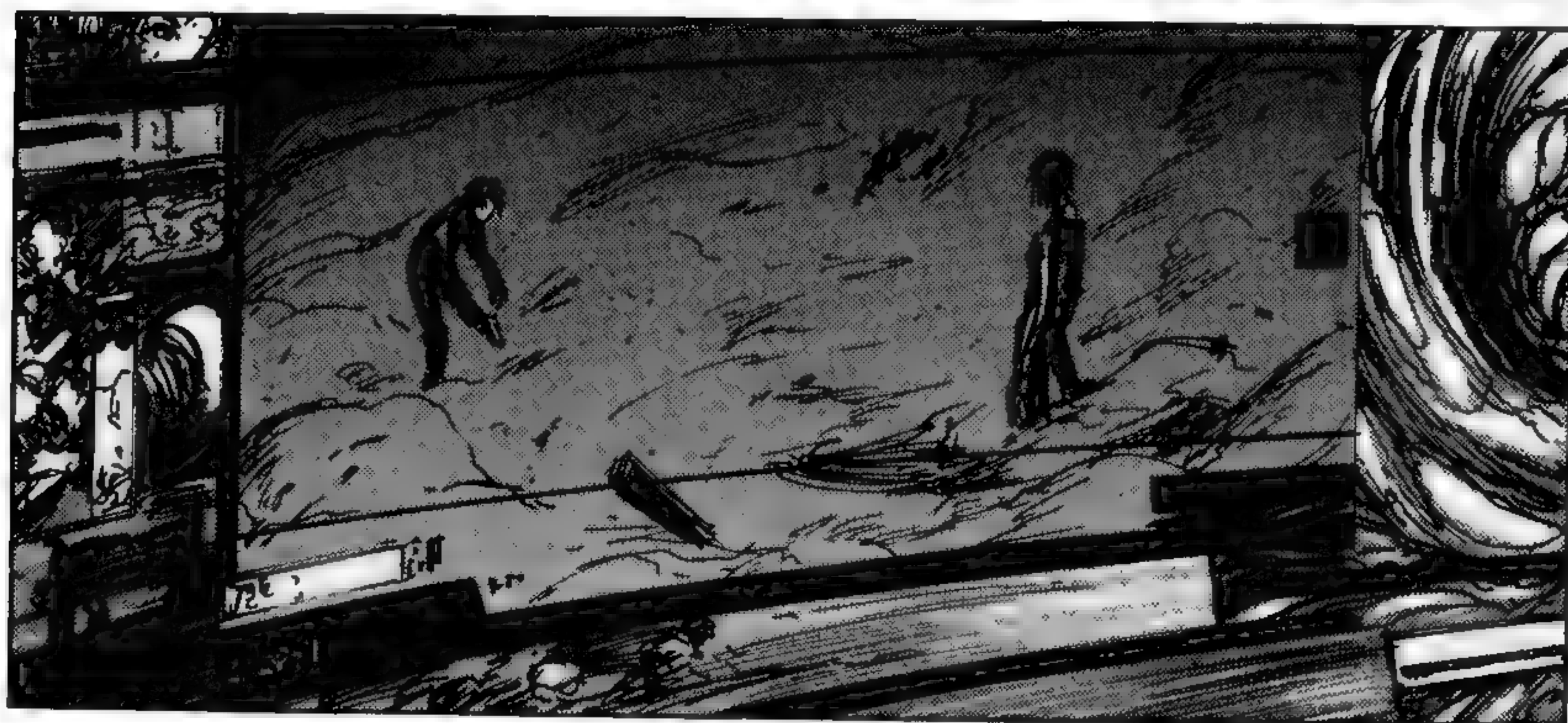


BLAM!





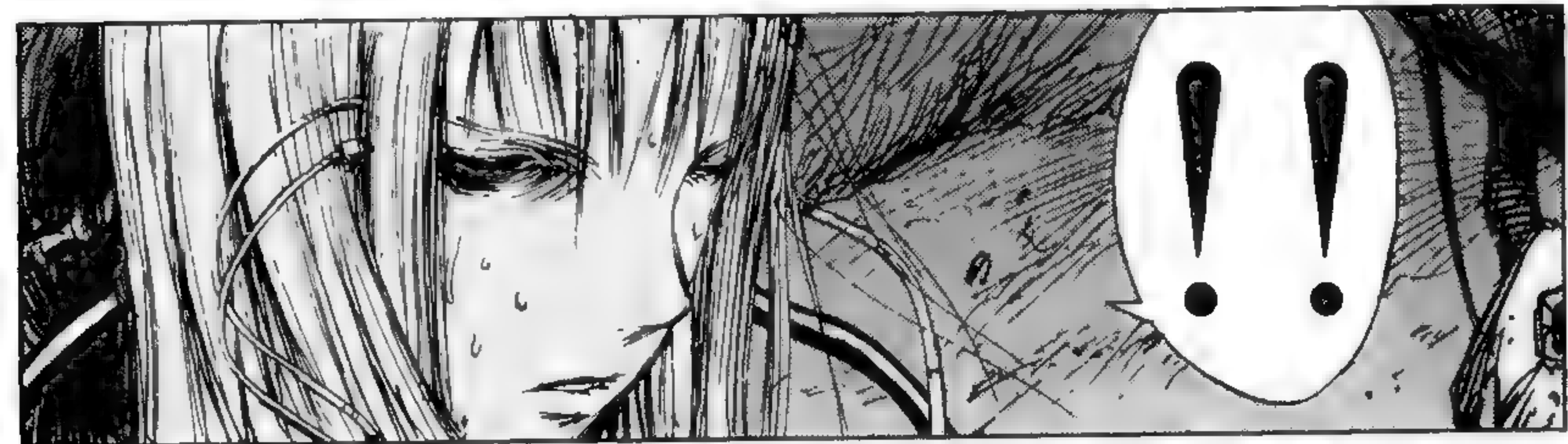
ZWOOM



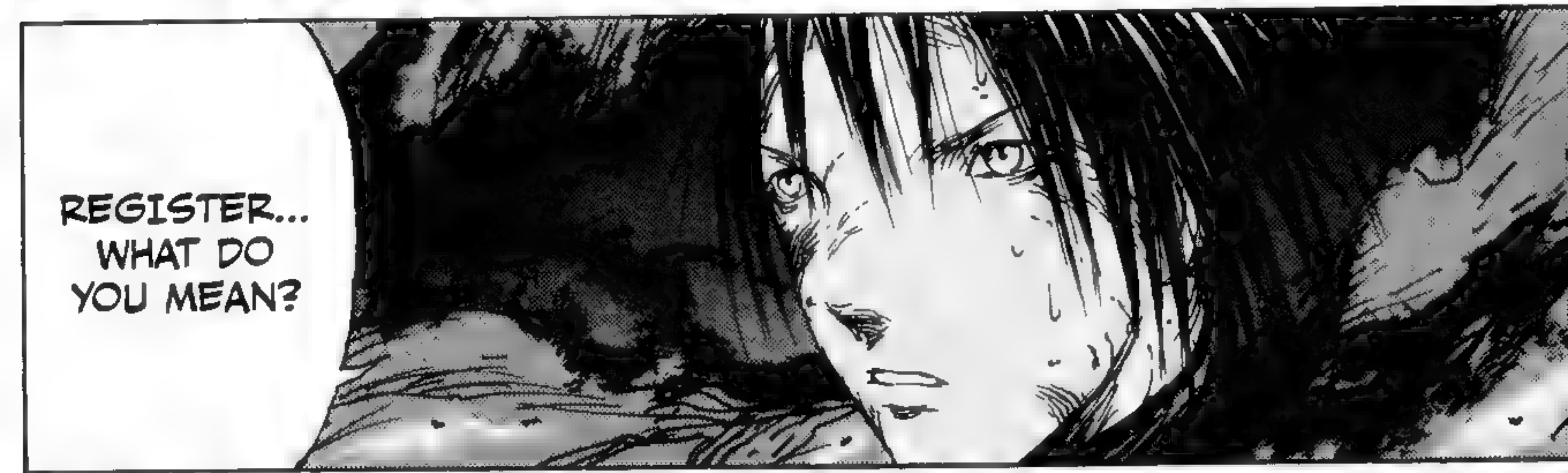


YOU ARE
BEING
REMOVED
FROM THE
SAFEGUARD'S
REGISTER.

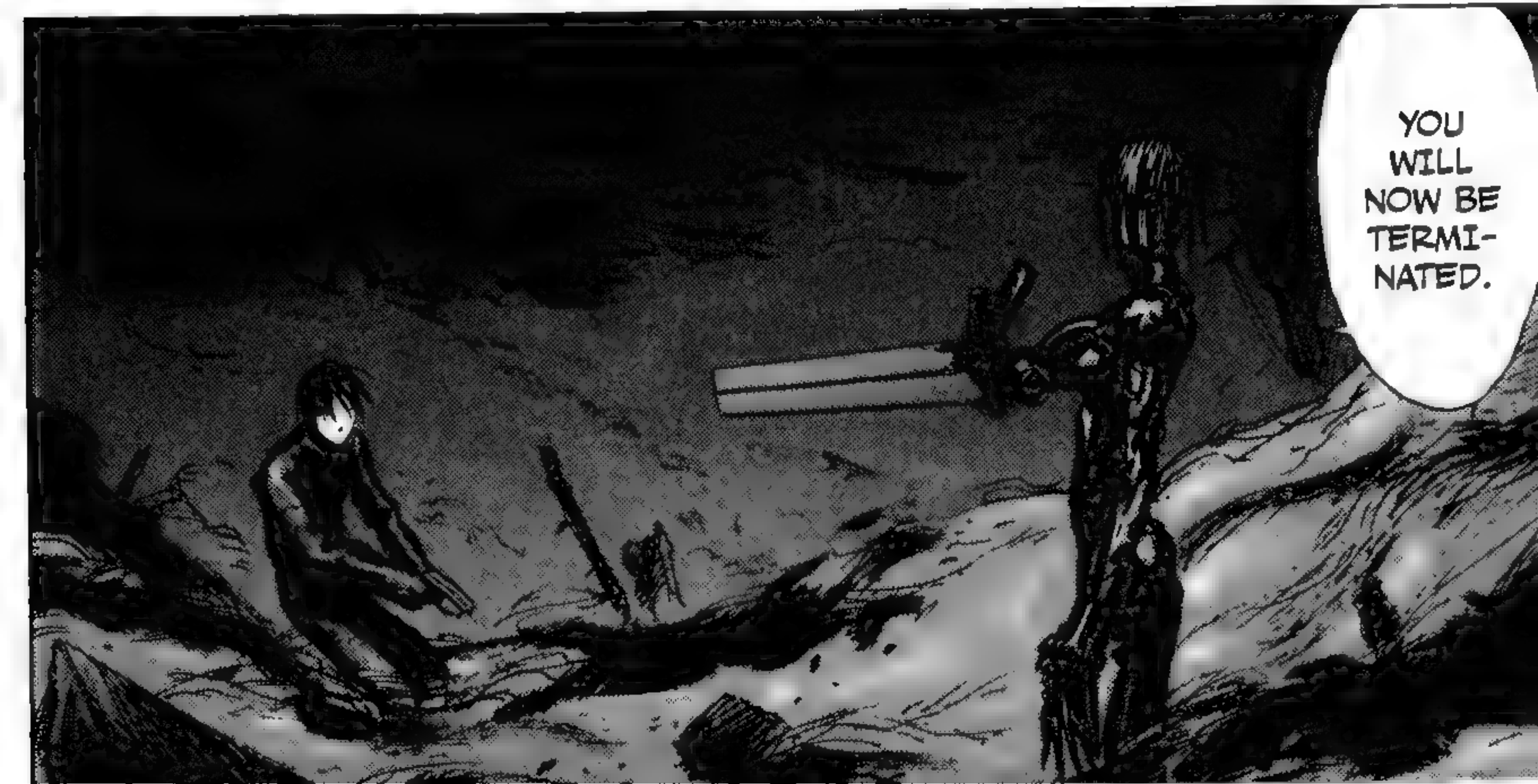
WE HAVE
FAILED TO
RECOVER
YOU.



!!



REGISTER...
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

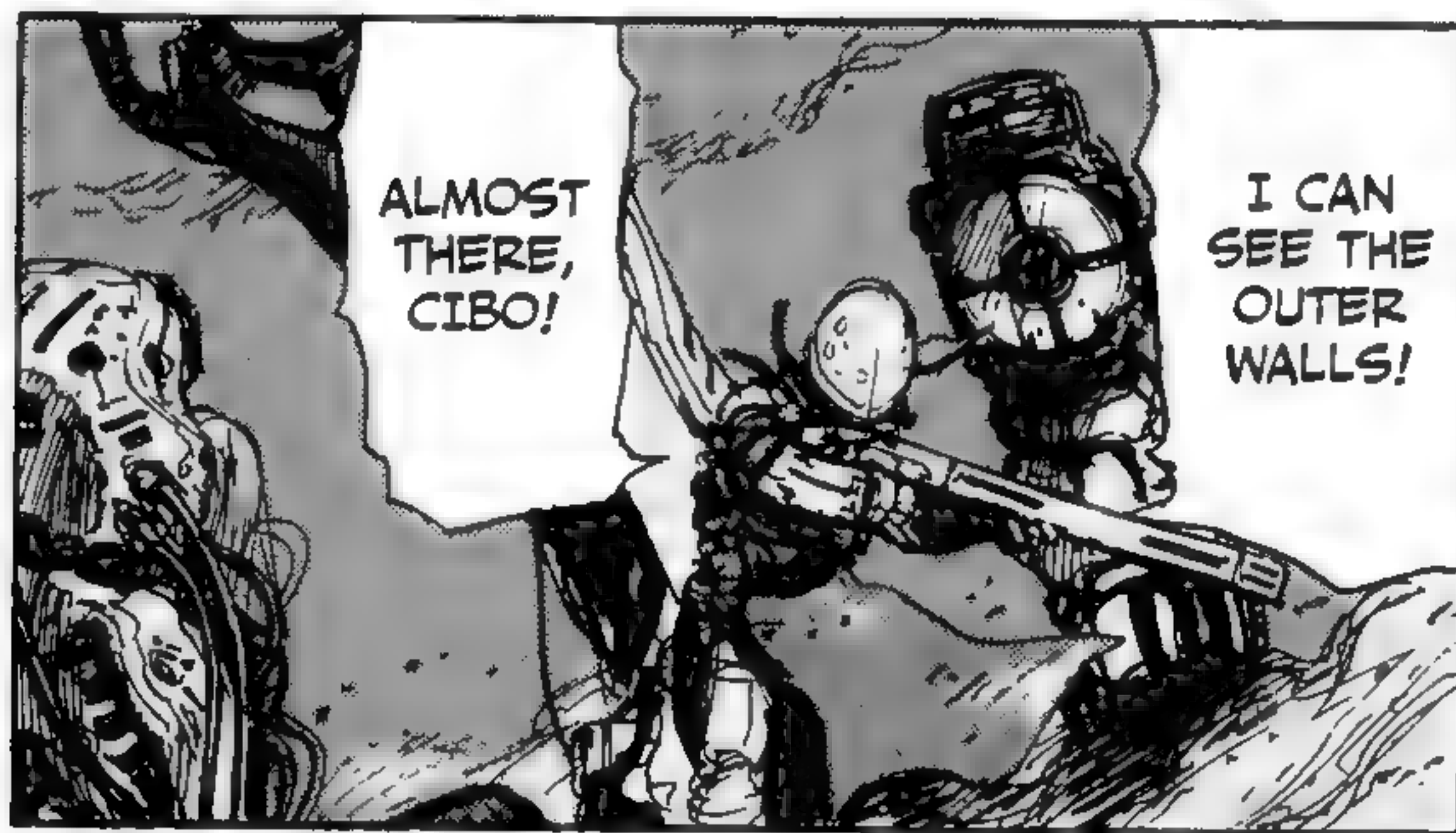


YOU
WILL
NOW BE
TERMI-
NATED.



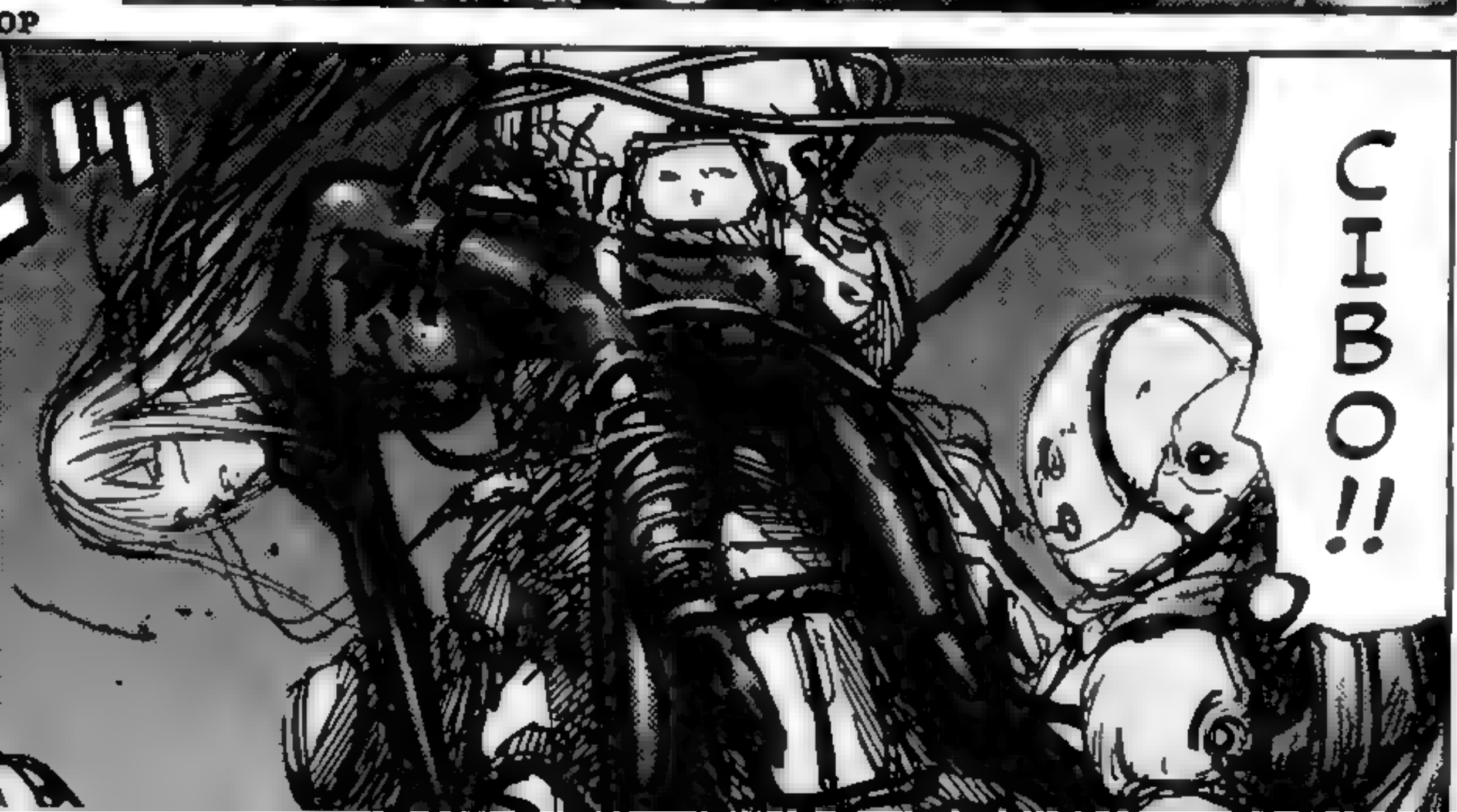
THEY
HAVEN'T
OPENED
THE EN-
TRANCE
YET?!

I'M
RUNNING
OUT OF
BOLTS!



ALMOST
THERE,
CIBO!

I CAN
SEE THE
OUTER
WALLS!



CIBO!!



CHIII

THE
BUILDER
STOPPED
MOVING!

WHIRRRR

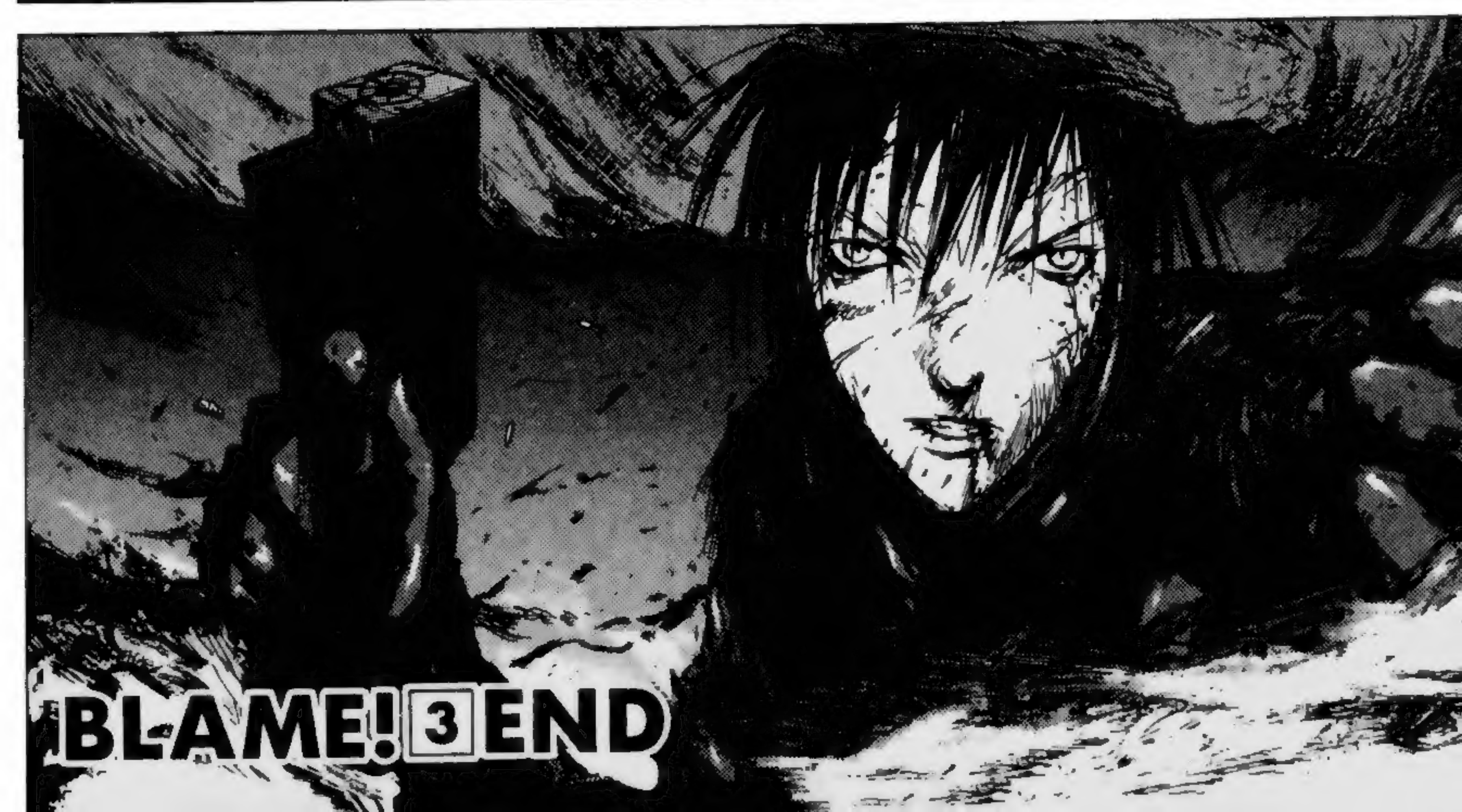
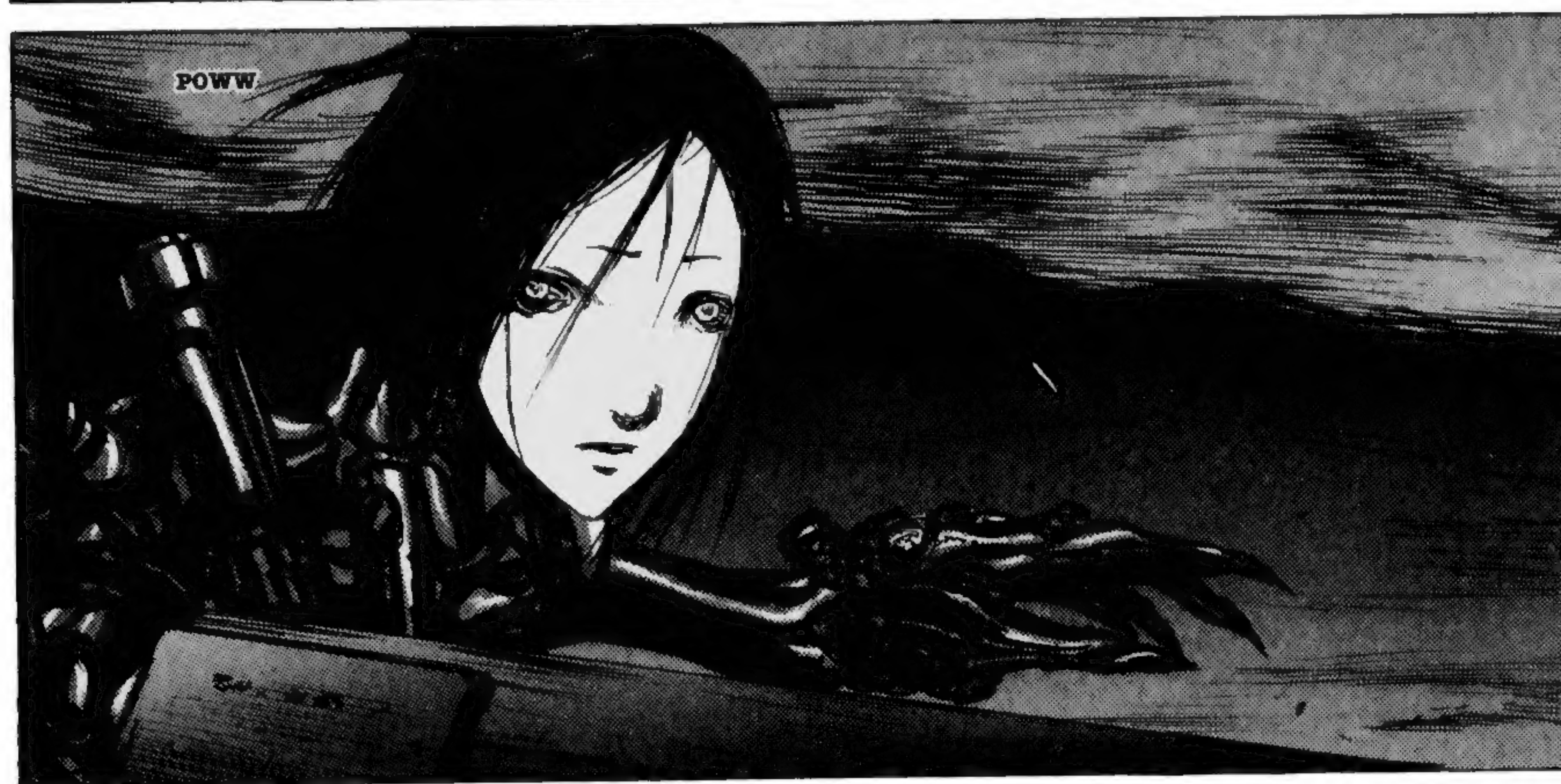
CRUNCH

CLUNK

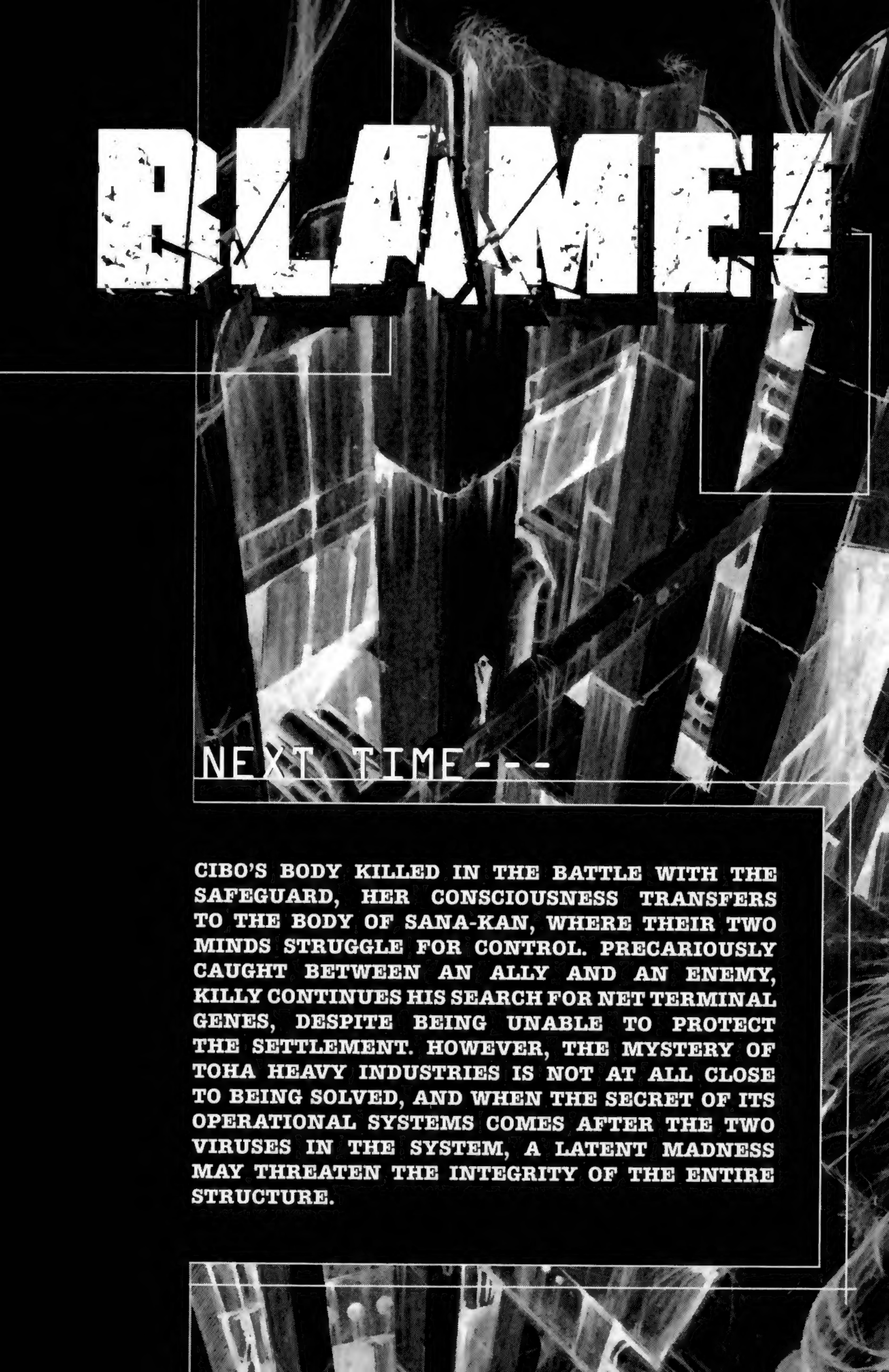


SMASSSH





ALL ALONE



NEXT TIME ---

CIBO'S BODY KILLED IN THE BATTLE WITH THE SAFEGUARD, HER CONSCIOUSNESS TRANSFERS TO THE BODY OF SANA-KAN, WHERE THEIR TWO MINDS STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL. PRECARIOUSLY CAUGHT BETWEEN AN ALLY AND AN ENEMY, KILLY CONTINUES HIS SEARCH FOR NET TERMINAL GENES, DESPITE BEING UNABLE TO PROTECT THE SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, THE MYSTERY OF TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES IS NOT AT ALL CLOSE TO BEING SOLVED, AND WHEN THE SECRET OF ITS OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS COMES AFTER THE TWO VIRUSES IN THE SYSTEM, A LATENT MADNESS MAY THREATEN THE INTEGRITY OF THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE.

BLAME!

Killy and Cibo come closer to unlocking the secrets of the Netsphere. However, the ability to actually understand the language of the Net Terminal Gene carriers may have been forever lost. Will Killy find a way to translate these seemingly undecipherable signals before the Authority itself is destroyed by its own creation?

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ALL AROUND US IT IS THE

TEXT IT IS ALL AROUND US IT IS THE MATRITX HE IS

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